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## Scene magazine



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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004**

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## First Command to pay \$12M fine; Web site to help troops Page 7

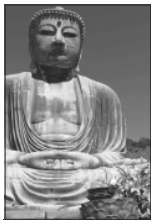
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PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

**Above: A U.S. Navy chaplain helps an orphaned girl, whose family was swept away by a mudslide, reach an orphanage Thursday. Left: Lance Cpl. Jeffery Pynduss, right, from the 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, counts boxes of water bottles Monday for a helicopter flying relief supplies to families affected by mudslides and flooding in the Philippines.**

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Cherry conviction:** A state appeals court Friday refused to vacate the murder conviction of ex-Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry in the deaths of four black girls in a 1963 church bombing in Birmingham.

An attorney for Cherry, who died at a prison hospital last month at the age of 74, had asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to vacate the conviction under an Alabama law that allows such action if a defendant dies while a conviction is being appealed.

The appeals court rejected the motion, saying it had already ruled against Cherry's appeal and that the law vacating convictions with the death of a defendant does not apply.

**Maryland fires arrest:** A security guard accused of burning down homes at the suburban Washington housing development where he worked told investigators he was upset his employer did not show enough sympathy after his infant son died this year.

Aaron L. Speed, 21, who worked for Security Services of America, told police he left his job from August to October because of SSA's "indifference to the death of his infant son," according to court papers.

When asked by investigators who might have started the fire, Speed said: "Someone who works at the site and recently experienced a great loss."

**Abuser speaks out:** Justin Volpe, the former New York City patrolman who shocked the city seven years ago by torturing a prisoner with a broken broomstick, says he feels sorry for Iraqis held at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

The musings of Volpe — serving a 30-year sentence for attacking Abner Louima inside a Brooklyn police station — are featured in the upcoming issue of *QO* magazine. The profile of Volpe is culled from his letters, journals and exchanges with visitors. He's barred from giving interviews.

"I feel for those prisoners at Abu Ghraib," Volpe, 32, told his father during a recent prison visit. "They're human beings."

**Hispanic rights leader steps down:** Sitting in a hotel lobby in the Mexican border town of McAllen, Raul Yzaguirre marveled at the urbanization of what was once a somnolent center of cattle ranches and citrus groves.

Now, symbols of affluence — golf courses, luxury cars and gated developments — mix with the shantytowns of the newest immigrants.



BENNIE J. DAVIS III/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**Operation Linebacker II memorial:** Staff Sgt. John Christian Watanabe of the Andersen Air Force Base Blue Knights Honor Guard on Guam salutes as Airmen 1st Class Kristin Rileau and Curtis Latham lower the flag to half mast at Arc Light Memorial Park, in honor of the 33 airmen from Andersen who died during Operation Linebacker II from Dec. 18-29, 1972. Andersen's Arc Light Memorial Park stands as a tribute to the men who lost their lives flying B-52 missions during Operation Linebacker II against communist forces in Vietnam.

## World

**Pinocchet appeal delay:** A court on Friday postponed until next week a decision on whether to uphold the indictment and house arrest of former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Pinochet was indicted Monday by Judge Juan Guzman for the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 regime. Guzman said he was certain the 89-year-old retired general was competent to stand trial.

Defense lawyer Pablo Rodriguez on Friday argued again that Pinochet was unfit for trial because of health problems including mild dementia, diabetes and arthritis.

**Yushchenko poisoning:** Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned by TCDD, the most harmful known form of dioxin, the scientist who conducted tests on the presidential candidate's blood said Friday.

Abraham Brouwer, professor of environmental toxicology at the Free University in

Amsterdam, said that the dioxin was TCDD, chemically known as tetrachlorodibenzo-paradioxin.

TCDD is produced inadvertently during manufacturing processes that use chlorine, such as paper and pulp bleaching. It is also produced by incinerators and usually ends up mixed with other dioxins produced by the same processes.

**Gadhafi presidential comments:** Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi says his decision to abandon nuclear weapons helped President Bush get re-elected.

In an interview airing Friday on Italy's RAI TV, Gadhafi said the U.S. presidential election was America's way of rewarding Tripoli for renouncing the nuclear program.

Gadhafi renounced the weapons program last year, a turnaround that ended Libya's international isolation. In turn, the United States lifted most of its commercial sanctions, as did the European Union. The EU also eased an arms embargo.

Stories from wire services

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# Troops grateful for chance to aid Philippines

Storm-torn country's devastation opens eyes, hearts of those on relief mission

BY JULIANA GITTLER  
Stars and Stripes

**INFANTA, Luzon, Philippines** — For the first few days of their humanitarian mission to the Philippines, Marines at food distribution sites didn't eat.

"We weren't getting any drops of supplies because the weather was so bad, so we bought *lumpia* (Philippine egg rolls) and gave out our [Meals, Ready to Eat]," said Lance Cpl. Dennis K. Lis Jr. with the Combat Assault Battalion at Camp Schwab, Okinawa. "We were trying to help them a little better."

More than 13 million people in the Philippines were affected by storms and a wave of flooding and mudslides three weeks ago that left 1,800 people dead or missing, the Philippine government estimates. Many who lived through it lost their homes, crops and possessions.

The Pentagon sent assistance in the form of more than 600 Marines, sailors and airmen from Okinawa and Japan on a humanitarian mission to fly into isolated communities.

The mission moved nearly a half-million pounds of relief supplies within a week and touched many of the servicemembers who participated.

"I can't believe how devastated this place is. I think about how lucky we are to go home and take a shower, to order a BLT and french fries. They're still here and don't even have running water and electricity," said 2nd Lt. Tim Alvey, site commander and platoon commander of the Motor Transportation Company, Transportation Support Battalion in Okinawa. "It does make you feel a little guilty."

The damage is some of the worst he has seen in 14 years with the Marine Corps, previously as an enlisted Marine.

The survivors are facing hunger, formidable reconstruction, sickness and trauma.

"It [was] like ocean waves coming from the mountains. That's how they explained it," said Tess Massadine, a Red Cross volunteer in Infanta, one of the hardest-hit towns.

In a 10-minute span, water filled the home of Jun Obriga. He had just enough time to rush with his family to the top of a fuel truck to wait out the flood of mud and logs.

Sefa Libranda said she prayed for help during the flooding. A line of dried mud on the walls of her house shows the floodwaters reached nearly to the second floor, far above her head.

Libranda said she was glad when the supplies began to arrive and is happy U.S. forces are helping, although she was nervous when the helicopters and Marines first came.



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

A Marine working at a Philippines distribution site for relief aid shows local children their photo taken on his digital camera. The Marines, sent to the Philippines to provide and transport humanitarian aid, spent time interacting with residents when possible.



**Above:** En route to a Philippines relief distribution point Thursday, Lance Cpl. Chad Thompson looks out over the damaged landscape. **Right:** A house is covered almost entirely by mud from the series of massive storms that slammed the region.



**"I can't believe how devastated this place is. I think about how lucky we are to go home and take a shower, to order a BLT and french fries. They're still here and don't even have running water and electricity."**

**2nd Lt. Tim Alvey**  
Platoon commander,  
Motor Transportation Company,  
Transportation Support Battalion

## Staff sergeant arrested

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A 26-year-old Yokota staff sergeant was arrested early Friday by Fussa City police for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol after crashing his car into a parked vehicle on nearby Bar Road, a popular entertainment district frequented by U.S. servicemembers.

First Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman, confirmed the arrest but did not release the airman's name.

"The Fussa Police Department is conducting an investigation right now," Comer said. "We don't know how long he'll remain in custody. We'll have to wait until they make their initial finding and come to us with the information."

A Fussa police spokesman said the incident occurred around 12:20 a.m. Friday. The staff sergeant was arrested after police checked his blood-alcohol level at the crash scene.

The airman sustained a minor injury, the spokesman said, but no one else was hurt.

The police spokesman said his department planned to forward the case to the prosecutor's office on Saturday.

## Embassy issues warning

TOKYO — The U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office has issued a warning about a female caller seeking information on American employees.

"The American Embassy has received several reports from U.S. businesses regarding a female who has phoned requesting information on American and/or other expatriate employees," the notice read. "The female identified herself as Helen or Helena DEACOSTA and stated that she is an employee at the embassy. She further stated that the embassy is sponsoring a Christmas party and asked for a list of American and/or expatriate employees in order to invite them to the party."

No such party is being held, embassy officials stated.

Another female identified as Julia Matthews has reportedly called once requesting the same information.

The Japanese embassy has reported the matter to Japanese authorities, who are investigating.

## HMH-363 in Iwakuni

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 was to arrive at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, on Saturday for a six-month deployment as part of the U.S. Marine Corps Joint Deployment Program.

The Red Lions of HMH-363 replace HMH-463, which is heading back to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the home base of both squadrons.

From staff reports

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# Santa's elves will be busy at Yokota

## Volunteers to deliver treats to those on duty during holiday

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota's squadron commanders and first sergeants are busy laying the groundwork for Operation Project Elf, a 374th Services Division effort to deliver special treats to the men and women who will be working Christmas Eve.

Servicemembers anticipate filling about 400 bags, which may include toys, candy, gum, mints, cookies and potato chips.

The bags will be collected at the Yujo Recreation Center on Friday and taken to offices around the base.

"First sergeants and commanders let us know how many in their command are working Christmas Eve. We make sure there is enough for the deserving," said Jan Bush, marketing director for the 374th Services Division.

"They'll pick up the bags at the Yujo between 4 and 6 p.m. This

gives them time to visit with their troops who have to work that night and distribute the packages."

The services division funds the project, supplemented by contributions from the Yokota community.

"We still need more donations for this year," Bush said. "Last year, we were lucky and received some fun Nerf toys."

The Elf project is the brainchild of Bob McFall, the interim chief of Yokota's Family Member Programs Flight, who started the program at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., and suggested it for Yokota a year ago.

"It's a special time of the year for giving and remembering," McFall said.

"I feel like this is a small reminder to our base personnel, that their Yokota and Air Force family is thinking about them while they are working and watch-

ing over us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day."

As of Friday, 18 Yokota squadrons had signed up to take part, Bush said.

Servicemembers received high marks for the inaugural Operation Project Elf.

"The first sergeants and commanders have been very grateful for this program," Bush added. "It helps them reward their troops."

"And it's important if you are the operator or security police or desk clerk at lodging who has to work that day."

Or a forecaster with Yokota's 20th Operational Weather Squadron, said Lt. Col. Michael Farrar, the unit's commander.

"Neither the weather, nor real-world operations impacted by weather, are confined to a daytime, business work schedule," Farrar said.

"As such, weather warriors such as those at the 20th Opera-

tional Weather Squadron are working 24/7 in all parts of the globe right through this and every holiday season."

"Project Elf is designed to recognize their contributions and sacrifices, and send a little extra Christmas cheer their way as they do their part to protect our nation's security. We are all thankful for dedicated professionals like them, and Project Elf is one more way we can say thanks."

To be included in this year's Operation Project Elf, commanders and first sergeants must submit the names of servicemembers slated to work Christmas Eve — along with points of contact — by Monday at 5 p.m. Call DSN 225-6955/6966 or fax names and contacts to DSN 225-4444.

Those interested in donating items should contact Nagako Destin, the program's sponsorship coordinator, at DSN 225-3308.

Vince Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil

# 600 Japanese workers attend commander's call

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Col. Mark Schissler paused Friday to show his appreciation for Yokota's Japanese employees during a commander's call designed to provide basic information and foster familiarity with the base leadership.

The event, held at the base theater, was split into morning and afternoon sessions. About 600 people turned out for the briefings.

"They don't get many chances to come together as a full group to hear about employee information," said Mieko Morita, a 374th Airlift Wing spokeswoman. "

And even though they work for the squadron, they really don't know very much about the leadership and who the commanders are."

Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander who conducts regular calls for Yokota's active-duty servicemembers, launched the Japa-

nese version a year ago to strengthen the bond shared by the two nations.

On Friday, he also presented various Pacific Air Forces and Defense Department awards to a handful of Japanese employees.

"After I got here, I looked at the command and mission groups and realized there was no effort in place to show the Japanese employees how important they are to our mission," Schissler said.

"I think it's crucial for them to know who the commanders are. We bring them together for the same reasons we do the regular commander's calls."

"It was very well-received last year. This is just a step better. We wanted to provide a useful hour for them — show them some helpful information and recognize a few individuals for their important contributions to the base."

The wing's four group commanders — Col. Carlton Everhart, operations; Col. William Story, mission support; Col. Michael Dillard,

maintenance; and Col. Mark Presson, medical — each got an opportunity to address the Japanese employees.

Representatives from the personnel and contracting offices discussed job-related issues such as worker's compensation, sick leave, overtime and medical contacts.

The gathering also heard from the Japan Welfare Association, which provides various services and operates the restaurant, barber shop and mini-mall in Building 994 near Yokota's Supply Gate.

The base employs about 2,000 Japanese nationals. Schissler praised their contributions to the Yokota mission.

"We cannot do the mission of the base without them," he said. "They fill key leadership, management and labor positions on base that make our daily operations possible."

Schissler said base officials would be offering tours of Yokota to Japanese employees in the near future.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil

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# National Guard: \$20B needed for equipment

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Worn down by the war in Iraq and security demands in the United States, the National Guard announced Thursday that it needs \$20 billion in new weapons and equipment over the next three years to continue to meet all its overseas and homeland commitments.

Without the money to "reset" itself, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the head of the Guard, warned that the reserve force "will be broken and not ready the next time it's needed, either at home or for war."

His remarks to reporters came as the Bush administration is preparing to submit an emergency spending plan totaling more than \$80 billion to cover war costs and remedy equipment shortages throughout the military. Guard officials have asked that \$7 billion of the supplemental be earmarked for their troops, and

they intend to seek an additional \$13 billion in later budget requests.

By speaking out now about the Guard's needs, Blum said he was trying to "put a marker against the supplemental" and other subsequent budget submissions "and make it stick." He said the Army's active-duty leadership had been sympathetic to the Guard's plans, so his message appeared directed beyond the Pentagon at the White House and Congress where final authority over funding rests.

"This has got to be addressed now," he said of the Guard's weakened condition. "The need for this money can't fall through the cracks and be an afterthought."

The \$20 billion request represents a huge increase over the \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion a year in new equipment that the Guard has received in recent years. Blum said the funds would go toward a wide range of purchases, including aircraft, vehicles, radios and weapons.

About 42,000 Army Guard are currently serving in Iraq or Kuwait.

# Army Guard triples bonuses for soldiers who re-enlist

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army National Guard has tripled re-enlistment bonuses and increased new enlistment bonuses by 67 percent in an effort to boost its ranks. Pentagon officials announced late last week.

At a press conference on Thursday, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum said the Army Guard has fallen short of recruiting over the past two months, largely blamed on troubles in Iraq. Officials hope the bonus increases will entice more new recruits and retain more of the Guard's 360,000 current members.

The Guard has had a particularly difficult time recruiting active-duty soldiers into its ranks. Stripes reported last month that just more than half of the 7,000 active-duty soldiers that the Guard sought to transition into its ranks did so in fiscal 2004.

As of Dec. 14, bonuses jumped from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for current servicemen who re-enlist for six years. For those who are currently serving abroad, that money will be tax-free.

For new recruits, the signing bonus will grow from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

Mark Allen, spokesman for the Guard, said the new figures bring the bonuses more in line with those offered by the Army, which is especially important for Guard members serving abroad.

"What do you say to a guy who is serving in Iraq and is seeing an active-duty guy earning more in bonuses than he is?" Allen asked.

"We haven't changed these for many years. This will give more equity to our people there."

Bonuses for Army recruits and re-enlistees depend on individuals' rank, specialties and length of service. Allen said the Guard's bonus structure will apply to everyone who joins.

National Guard officials have said they expect the total number of reservists and guardsmen on active duty in the war on terrorism to increase above 100,000 for the next two years.

Department of Defense officials estimate Army Reserve soldiers make up about 40 percent of the 148,000 troops in Iraq.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil



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# Stateside housing allowances to rise in 2005

Monthly housing allowances for 910,000 servicemembers living off base in the United States will climb by an average of 8 percent effective Jan. 1, say Defense Department officials.

The rise in individual rates, however, will vary significantly, from no change for some grades in some areas to as much as 20 percent to 30 percent for military renters in high-cost areas such as Hawaii.

Revised BAH rates will have no direct impact on servicemembers living off base overseas. They get an Overseas Housing Allowance which is adjusted in the spring and fall each year to reflect changes in

out-of-pocket costs for stateside prices and changes in the dollar's value relative to local currency.

The 2005 Basic Allowance for Housing rates not only will keep pace with an average 4.4 percent rise in rental costs nationwide over last year but also are high enough to close a remaining 3.5 percent gap between 2004 BAH and median rental expenses nationwide.

BAH recipients will enjoy a fifth and final "above-inflation" annual adjustment that since the year 2000 has eliminated a 22 percent disparity between stateside allowances and rental costs reported in housing surveys.

With the new rates, said Tim Fowlkes, director of BAH for the

## MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Defense Department, out-of-pocket costs for stateside renters will fall to zero, assuming they rent at the local median cost for the type of housing deemed appropriate to their pay grade.

The chart shows 2005 rates for U.S. locations with large populations of servicemembers. Rates for all areas can be found online at:

<https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdium/bah.html>

BAH rates are set so that servicemembers of equal rank and with the same dependency status have equal purchasing power to rent housing, regardless of where they are assigned. The tax-free allowance is to cover not only median rental costs locally but average utility expenses and renter's insurance.

Total BAH payments in 2005 will reach \$12.3 billion, up \$2.5 billion, or 25 percent, from 2004. An additional 90,000 members will qualify. Some of that growth, Fowlkes said, results from mobilized Reserve and National Guard members who are eligible to draw

BAH while activated. Their BAH typically is based on where their families reside while they are deployed.

Also, he said, thousands more active duty families are eligible for BAH this year due to housing privatization, a program to move families out of aging military units and into new or renovated private sector housing.

Stateside, BAH is paid both to military homeowners and renters but the allowance is based on rental costs alone.

For a complete list of BAH rates and more on the topic, go to [www.strips.com](http://www.strips.com). To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 21111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail [milupdate@aol.com](mailto:milupdate@aol.com) or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)



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# Brokerage firm to reimburse customers

## Settlement calls for \$4M to be paid to affected First Command clients

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The National Association of Securities Dealers said Friday it will help eligible servicemembers and their families get refunds if they were misled by a brokerage firm that deals extensively with the U.S. military.

First Command Financial Planning, which caters almost exclusively to military personnel, agreed this week to pay a \$12 million fine to settle accusations that it misled customers about their investment fees and returns.

First Command will refund about \$4 million to some customers who bought mutual funds

from the firm between 1999 and this year, in a settlement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the NASD, the brokerage industry's self-policing organization.

NASD will help with the refund process (see box).

The remaining \$8 million of the fine will go into a military educa-

tion fund run by NASD, according to the association's head of enforcement, Barry Goldsmith.

First Command's customer base includes over 297,000 current and former military families. According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of the current active-duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

The company employs about 1,000 sales agents — mostly retired military officers — in some 200 branch offices near military bases in the United States and several foreign countries, including Japan and Guam.

A statement from the company noted that the settlement did not involve any of the firm's life insurance policies or banking services, and only involved how investment plans were sold, not concerns over the mutual funds themselves. They neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

Before the settlement, First Command had announced it would stop offering its systematic investment plans, the focus of the investigation. In addition to the fine the firm also will have all of its advertising preapproved by an independent consultant for two years.

Goldsmith said sales agents for the broker dealer misled customers by saying their high up-front costs of the funds — in some cases 50 percent of the money being invested — encouraged clients to stay in the plan, because by withdrawing, clients faced large losses early that would diminish over time. Company data showed otherwise.

Agents also said the systematic investments had lower long-term costs than other mutual funds. Goldsmith said in many cases the opposite is true, and clients didn't fully understand the fees associated with First Command's plans.

"We found it very troublesome that the people who were sold these plans had a lot on their minds and were not given all the appropriate information," he said. "And the median age of their in-

### Seeking restitution

Servicemembers and families who feel they may be entitled to a refund as part of this National Association of Securities Dealers investigation are urged to go to [www.nasd.com](http://www.nasd.com) beginning Saturday morning.

"There will be a First Command investor restitution page on the Web site," according to National Association of Securities

Dealers spokeswoman Sarah Bohn. "It will clearly state who is eligible, what you should do, when restitution will be available, and what options will be made available to investors who are not eligible."

Wayne M. Secore, a lawyer with Secore and Waller, LLP, a Dallas-based law firm, will administer the restitution program.

Anyone who is having problems with the Web site can call him at (972) 776-0200.

The NASD Foundation will also be developing plans to educate investors, as part of the settlement, but plans have not been finalized for how that will work, Bohn said.

— Patrick J. Dickson

vestors was 25, which meant [First Command agents] were dealing with people without much investing background."

The investigation also resulted in a \$25,000 fine and a 30-day suspension for First Command district supervisor James Provo, based in Charleston, S.C., who responded to an Air Force officer's e-mail complaint about the company by telling the officer that he could lose a permanent change of station assignment and informing his squadron commander that the company might file a grievance against the officer.

Payouts will be available only to First Command clients who purchased and ended their investment plans within the last six years. Goldsmith said customers with active plans can try to recoup their losses through arbitration, and in light of the settlement he expects many clients to do so.

For more information: [www.nasdfoundation.org/](http://www.nasdfoundation.org/)  
E-mail: Leo Shane at: [shane@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:shane@stripes.osd.mil)

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### DOD seeks to restart anthrax vaccine program

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is seeking emergency authority to resume administering the anthrax vaccine, saying troops in South Korea and the Middle East are at risk.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz made the request in a Dec. 10 letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. The No. 2 official at the Pentagon cited "a significant potential for a military emergency involving a heightened risk to United States military forces of attack with anthrax."

Wolfowitz did not describe any specific threat, but pointed to a classified intelligence assessment from last month regarding anthrax. He did not detail the assessment.

HHHS is considering the request, a department spokesman said.

Anthrax vaccinations by the military have been suspended since late October, when a federal judge ordered the military to stop requiring personnel to take the vaccine. The judge, responding to a lawsuit by six members of the armed forces, found fault in the Food and Drug Administration's process for approving the drug.

From The Associated Press



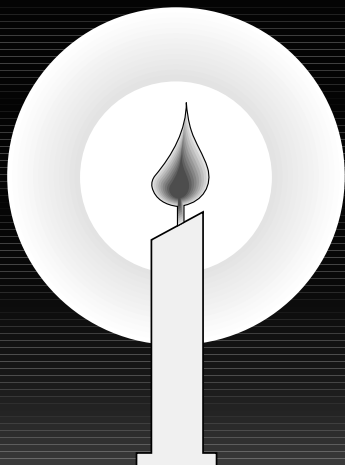
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## IN THE WORLD

## U.S., Japan sign missile defense memo

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan and the United States on Friday agreed to boost cooperation in their missile defense programs — an important first step in carrying out new defense guidelines that ease Tokyo's strict postwar pacifism.

Japan's Defense Chief Yoshinori Ono and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker penned a memorandum of understanding that allows the two nations to share information on ballistic missile defense systems and cooperate in related projects, a Defense Agency spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

"After joint research, we will move on to joint production," Ono said at a news conference. "This is the demand of the times."

Under the agreement, the allies will set up a high-level committee to supervise the missile defense alliance, the agency said in a statement. It didn't give further details.

Last week, Japan approved new defense guidelines that in-



Japan's Defense Agency Director General Yoshinori Ono, left, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker shake hands Friday during the signing of the Mutual Memorandum of Understanding on Ballistic Missile Defense at the Defense Agency in Tokyo.

clude the relaxation of an arms-export ban to facilitate a missile security program it's currently researching with Washington.

"I'm convinced that the missile

defense research and development... will result in the strengthening of peace and stability," Baker said. "This is the foundation of growth and prosperity for both of our nations."

Ono agreed and said, "I hope the ties between Japan and the United States will be further strengthened by the signing of the memorandum."

Japan has maintained the arms-export ban since 1976 in deference to its pacifist constitution, unchanged since it was written by U.S. occupation forces after World War II. The constitution settles international disputes.

However, Japan approved a plan to introduce a ballistic missile defense system in December 2003, spurred by missile tests from North Korea.

In the new defense guidelines, the government identified North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions and China's modernization of its huge military as key threats to Japan.

The new guidelines also came amid Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's efforts in pushing a more high-profile role for Japan's military and closer cooperation with Washington, which maintains 50,000 troops in Japan under a security treaty.

## Japan to delay any N. Korea sanctions

BY KENJI HALL

The Associated Press

IBUSUKI, Japan — Japan will delay imposing economic sanctions on North Korea to give the communist state more time to explain the fate of Japanese nationals abducted by Pyongyang decades ago, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said, in a move that appears to ease a recent escalation in tensions between the two nations.

Tokyo wants to give the communist state more time to explain the

fate of Japanese nationals abducted by Pyongyang decades ago, Koizumi said Friday.

"We will have to see how North Korea responds to demands for the truth."

Once he saw that, we would then consider what sort of sanctions to impose," Koizumi said at a news conference after talks with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

Tokyo and Seoul have pursued independent contacts with North Korea, in addition to participating in three rounds of six-nation talks also involving the United States, China and Russia. The talks have produced no breakthroughs — and have divided Japan and South Korea in their dealings with the North.

Koizumi has faced growing pressure from the Japanese public to get tough with Pyongyang. South Korea opposes punishing the North for fear it might set back multilateral negotiations to end the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs.

After a two-hour meeting at the hot spring resort of Ibusuki in southern Japan, Koizumi and Roh agreed to urge North Korea to resume six-nation talks "as soon as possible."

North Korea has returned five of 13 Japanese citizens it admitted abducting in the 1970s and '80s. It said the eight others are dead, but Japan suspects they may be alive, especially because the North has failed to turn over their remains.



Tourists take pictures in front of a massive billboard showing photos of Iraqi prisoners being abused by American soldiers in front of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana, Cuba, on Friday.

## Cuba counters U.S. decor with Abu Ghraib billboard

BY VANESSA ARRINGTON

The Associated Press

HAVANA — Cuba's threat to take action after the U.S. diplomatic mission's refusal to remove Christmas decorations materialized Friday in the form of a huge billboard in front of the U.S. Interest Section mocking the United States.

Color images of Iraqi prisoners being abused by American soldiers lined the billboard, which was emblazoned with a red swastika and the word "fascists" covered with a "Made in the U.S.A." stamp.

An American diplomat in Havana speaking

on condition of anonymity said the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq has been reported and discussed openly, and that those responsible are being prosecuted.

"On the other hand, the Cuban government does not allow a single word of dissent in its media, jails those who dare espouse different ideas and has not allowed [anyone] to visit Cuban political prisoners since the late 1980s," the official said.

The U.S. Interest Section, headed by chief James Casson, ignored a demand last week to remove Christmas decorations that included a reference to dissidents jailed by Fidel Castro's government.

The trimmings included a Santa Claus, candy canes and white lights wrapped around palm trees — and a sign reading "75," a reference to 75 Cuban dissidents jailed last year.

Cuba had warned the U.S. mission to remove the decorations or face unspecified consequences. Casson earlier in the week declared the decorations would remain up until after the holidays — a decision reiterated by the interest section on Friday.

Smaller billboards with photographs of the prisoner abuse were placed in less-conspicuous places, including the neighboring "Anti-Imperialist Plaza" built five years ago during a custody battle over the Cuban boy Elian Gonzalez.

four inmates, once suspected of belonging to al-Qaida terror organization.

Explosions ripped through the area around the Pule-e Charkhi jail as troops launched the assault just before nightfall. Soon after, soldiers reported the last holdouts in the prison were killed, bringing the death toll to four inmates and four guards.

The standoff began in the morning when four inmates, three Pakistanis and an Iraqi, overpowered and killed a guard, then used his weapon to kill three guards.

## Afghan troops storm prison

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan troops stormed a notorious prison Friday in an assault that commanders said ended a standoff sparked by a bloody escape attempt by

## Princess Sayako engaged

TOKYO — Princess Sayako of Japan, 35, the only daughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, will formally announce her engagement to a 39-year-old urban planner this weekend, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

Sayako, the youngest offspring of the reigning emperor, is the last of his three children to marry.

From The Associated Press

## North Koreans seek refuge

BEIJING — Seven people claiming to be North Koreans climbed over a barbed-wire fence into the Japanese school in Beijing on Friday seeking passage to South Korea.

They carried a sign that read in English: "We are North Koreans. We want to go to South Korea. Please help us," a Japanese Embassy official said on condition of anonymity.

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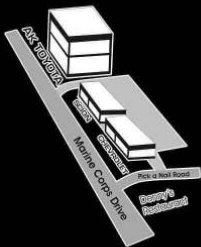
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The town of Infanta, one of the distribution points for U.S. Marines delivering aid in the Philippines, became a muddy swamp after massive storms and mud slides.

**“I saw people throwing mud out of their homes. It’s pretty amazing. You look out over the hills and just see brown spots.”**

**1st Lt. Ben Taggart**

Marine Medium Helicopter  
Squadron 262



**Above:** The mud is everywhere — on people, homes and possessions.  
**Right:** From the vantage of a helicopter Thursday, footprints in the knee-deep mud show the activity since storms and mudslides devastated the Philippine countryside.



## Aid: Marines put training to real-world test

### AID, FROM PAGE 3

Marine and Air Force helicopters operated out of the former U.S. Clark Air Base, transporting supplies to be distributed by Philippine agencies. Without the aircraft, supplies could only trickle in on foot.

“I’m glad the U.S. has helped us with heavy lifting,” said Philippine Sen. Richard J. Gordon, who also chairs the country’s Red Cross. “The supplies are coming in a lot faster.”

During continuous trips ferrying supplies, pilots and flight crews had a unique view of the damage.

“I saw people throwing mud out of their homes. It’s pretty amazing,” said 1st Lt. Ben Taggart, a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262. “You look out over the hills and just see brown spots.”

The coastline is littered with logs, most illegally cut and responsible for many deaths, according to the Philippine government.

Near the delivery sites, people waded through thick mud, past destroyed homes and buried furniture and vehicles. People wash muddy possessions by the roadside.

Many Marines said they were happy to help after seeing the devastation, and pleased by the experience they gained.

“Training is fun, but it’s nice to actually go out and do a real-world operation,” said Lance Cpl. Brett Armstrong, with the 3rd Marine Division Combat Assault Bat-

talion from Camp Schwab, who is part of the perimeter security at the distribution sites. “I’d be happy to keep doing these [missions].”

He said he wouldn’t mind if the mission lasted through the holidays. “It would be nice to stay here helping out.”

Lis, who also conducted site security, said the noncombat, real-world experience is making him a better Marine — a thought echoed by Joint Task Force S35 commander Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, who led the mission.

“We train them to the full spectrum of force and the options in the elevation of force, but until you have the opportunity to actually execute it, it’s a little bit foreign,” Glueck said. “So to be able to have the opportunity like they’ve had here, it has really become very clear to them how important it is. When they leave here, they will be far better Marines.”

Even those who didn’t visit the aid distribution sites understand the importance of their mission.

Loading pallets for the helicopters, Pfc. Chris Sizemore, with Landing Support Company of the 3rd Transportation Support Battalion based at Kadema Air Base in Okinawa, is doing his usual job. But now, bags of life-saving food replace the usual loads.

“We usually just get to do Marine Corps gear. It feels good to help people,” he said. “It lets people see we’re different than what they think.”



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

**A woman and a young girl wash clothes in the muddy water Thursday where a house was destroyed; only its front step remains.**

SEE AID ON PAGE 13





PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Marines from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade help load a CH-53E helicopter early Monday morning at Clark Air Base for disaster relief in the Philippines.

## Aid: Mission hits close to home for some

AID, FROM PAGE 12

For the servicemembers of Filipino descent, the mission has particular importance.

"Just to be back in the Philippines, to be able to help people—I'm glad to be able to speak Tagalog again," said Navy Hospitalman Apprentice Miguel Cothran, who was born in San Diego and grew up in the Philippines.

"Originally I am Filipino. So it is my privilege to be back again and to help these people," said Navy Chaplain Lt. Cerino O. Bargaola, who held a Catholic Mass for townspeople who lost their

priest and church. "I cannot forget this."

After moving thousands of pounds more supplies than their mission target, U.S. personnel wrapped up with a celebration Thursday. They were to return to Okinawa and Japan in the coming days.

Many say they leave knowing they helped save lives, despite arduous hours of work.

"It's for a good reason," Sizemore said. "So it doesn't really bother us."

Go to [www.stripes.com/04/dec04/relief](http://www.stripes.com/04/dec04/relief) to view more photos of the Philippines relief mission.  
E-mail Juliana Gittler at: [gittlerj@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:gittlerj@stripes.osd.mil)

More photos at  
[www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)



Master Sgt. Chaz Stiefken from the 33rd Rescue Squadron crams into his HH-60G helicopter to deliver supplies Monday to Philippine relief centers.

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## IN THE STATES

# Church conductor opens fire, kills self

BY LAURA WIDES

The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — The longtime conductor of the Crystal Cathedral's orchestra shot himself to death Friday at the southern California landmark church after a nine-hour standoff that began when he opened fire as congregants prepared for a Christmas pageant.

Johnnie Carl, 57, had barricaded himself in a bathroom and shot himself early Friday morning as police officers tried to talk to him. Carl, who also had made records with Celine Dion, the London Symphony and others, had grappled with depression, authorities said.

He had fired about four shots in his office, and it did not appear he was trying to hit anybody, police said. Children in a day care center were rushed to safety. No one else was injured in the incident.

The cathedral, a huge, sprawling structure of glass and steel not far from Disneyland, is home to the Rev. Robert Schuller's international Crystal Cathedral Ministries and claims a congregation of more than 10,000

members. The internationally televised "Hour of Power" is broadcast from there.

The first shots were fired Thursday afternoon, less than two hours before the scheduled start of the cathedral's annual "Glory of Christmas" holiday show, for which Carl had arranged the pre-recorded music. The two Thursday shows were canceled.

The 78-year-old Schuller, who was at home when the shooting happened, taped a message for Carl, who had been conductor for 29 years. But police did not have a chance to play it or another message from Carl's wife. They did have a plan from a friend who had helped Carl in the past, police said.

In a statement, Schuller hailed his friend as "a creative genius whose beautiful arrangements and superb conducting set new levels of excellence for sacred music. His music brought joy to the millions of viewers around the world who watch the Crystal Cathedral's 'Hour of Power' television program each week."

Carl is survived by his wife, Linda, and three children.

# More details of World Trade Center memorial unveiled

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The memorial honoring World Trade Center victims will include a forest of oak trees with a clearing for Sept. 11 gatherings and a Memorial Hall between the twin reflecting pools that will mark the footprints of the lost towers, officials announced Thursday.

Among the new elements of the site released Thursday were the Memorial Hall, a 1.5-acre clearing at ground level for public gatherings, and the exposed stumps of columns that supported the twin towers.

John Whitehead, chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency overseeing rebuilding, called Memorial Hall a new public space where visitors will be able to "review a directory of the names, locating their loved ones among the souls that are there."

New York Gov. George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, victims' family members and designers of the site also attended a news conference a few blocks from the trade center site to release details of the memorial design.

"We have to have a memorial that really allows us to connect the sheer enormity of the twin towers to the individuals that were taken from us," Bloomberg said, "and I guess to the higher powers in whose hands we really place our fragile lives every day."

Michael Arad's design, "Reflecting Absence," was chosen earlier this year out of more than 5,000 submissions from around the world.

In keeping with architect Daniel Libeskind's overall site plan, there will be access to the stumps of columns that held up the twin towers and to the slurry wall that prevented the Hudson



Architects Michael Arad, left, Peter Walker, center, and Max Bond discuss their design for a memorial at the World Trade Center site Thursday in New York.

River from flooding the site.

"These cut-off columns, this foundation slab, this slurry wall, all together form part of the literal story of survival of that day," Arad said. "These are artifacts that one can touch, and sense the past through them, and regis-

ter the brutality of these events."

As they go forward in executing their design, the architects will have to solve contentious issues, including how to list the names of the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

## Pfizer finds Celebrex a heart risk

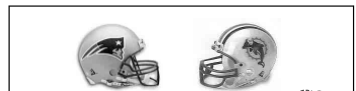
NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc. said it has found an increased risk of heart attacks with patients taking its top-selling painkiller Celebrex, a drug that is in the same class as Vioxx, but has no plans to remove it from the market.

Pfizer announced Friday that it found the increased risk in one of two long-term cancer prevention trials, while the other trial showed no increased risk.

The National Cancer Institute, which was conducting the study for Pfizer, suspended the use of Celebrex after discovering that patients taking 400mg of the drug daily had a 2.5 times greater risk of experiencing major heart problems than those who were not. A separate cancer study found no increased heart risk with patients taking 400mg of Celebrex per day.

Pfizer was conducting the trials as part of an effort to find a new application for the drug.

From The Associated Press



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\* US Payments are only accepted at the Yokohama Branch.

# More people may get access to flu vaccine

By CHARLES PILLER  
Los Angeles Times

Federal health authorities are considering broadening the range of people who can receive a flu shot because of an unexpected quantity of unused vaccine.

The stocks exist because only about one-third of those who were encouraged to get a shot — a high-risk group that includes the elderly, people with chronic medical conditions and health care workers who interact with patients — have been vaccinated.

During last year's flu season, 54 percent of high-risk people were vaccinated.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will meet Friday to consider providing the shots to more people.

Much of the U.S. flu vaccine supply was lost when contamination was discovered in August at the Chiron Corp. production plant in Liverpool, England.

If the CDC expands the list of who should be vaccinated, it would follow moves adopted last week by the California Department of Health Services and Los Angeles County.

The new state and county guidelines encourage children ages 6 months to 23 months to receive the shot, as well as adults ages 50 or higher — compared to the CDC standard of 65 and above. Any healthy individual between age 2 and 49 can obtain a flu vaccine nasal spray, available through major pharmacy chains. Projected supplies would permit 65 million people to be vaccinated — still below what is considered ideal.

How long stocks will last remains uncertain because "the demand for flu shots is very unpredictable," said state DHS spokeswoman Norma Arceo.



Customers leave a store holding a flu shot clinic in Seattle on Dec. 7.

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## Bush may ask for cuts in spending

BY ALAN FRAM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is considering asking Congress to freeze domestic spending next year or cut it slightly, even as he prods lawmakers to allow younger workers to divert some of their Social Security taxes into personal investment accounts.

The two plans, which promise to be dominant issues next year, share a common thread: massive federal deficits that have set consecutive records, peaking at \$413 billion last year. The shortfalls have prompted Bush to seek savings from non-defense, non-domestic security programs, and have limited his options for shoring up Social Security for the looming retirement of baby boomers.

"This is an issue on which I campaigned and I'm still standing," Bush said of revamping Social Security at a White House economic conference, where he hoped would prompt support from lawmakers loathe to meddle with the giant retirement system.

"I don't want to let younger workers take part of the Social Security taxes they now pay and invest the money in private accounts. Democrats say the proposal would enrich Wall Street bankers while further weakening the solvency of Social Security."

In 2018, Social Security will start paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes. In 2042, the system will be able to cover 73 percent of promised benefits, according to Social Security's trustees.

Bush said the country can't afford to wait any longer to fix the problem.

"The crisis is now," the president told the economic forum. On the spending side, Bush is moving toward holding programs Congress must approve annually — except domestic security and defense — to the same \$388 billion they received this year, say congressional aides and lobbyists speaking on condition of anonymity. The part of the budget he would restrict also excludes automatically made payments like Medicare and interest on the federal debt.

The president has yet to make final decisions on the \$2.5 trillion budget he will send Congress in February, administration officials say. Even so, he and his aides have made it clear that domestic programs will be squeezed. "I look forward to working with Congress on fiscal restraint," the president said. "And it's not going to be easy." House and Senate aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the White House was considering cutting such programs as housing, grants for community development, purchases of new equipment for the Federal Aviation Administration, and Army Corps of Engineers water projects.



President Bush shakes hands with House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich., after signing the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 during a ceremony in Washington on Friday. Bush signed into law the largest overhaul of U.S. intelligence gathering in 50 years. Standing on stage with Bush are, from left to right, Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn.; Chairman of the 9/11 Commission Thomas Kean; Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine; National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice; and Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif.

AP

# President signs intelligence bill

BY NEDRA PICKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Friday signed into law the largest overhaul of U.S. intelligence gathering in 50 years, hoping to improve the spy network that failed to prevent the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Our vast intelligence enterprise will become more unified, coordinated and effective," Bush said. "It will enable us to better do our duty, which is to protect the American people."

The 563-page bill, which endured a thorny path to congressional passage, also aims to tighten borders and aviation security. It creates a federal counterterrorism center and a new intelligence director, but Bush did not announce a candidate for that post at Friday's ceremony.

"A key lesson of Sept. 11 is that America's

intelligence agencies must work together as a single, unified enterprise," Bush said.

The Sept. 11 Commission, in its July report, said disharmony among the intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to prevent the attacks. The government failed to recognize the danger posed by al-Qaida and was ill-prepared to respond to the terrorist threat, the report concluded.

Bush was joined at the signing ceremony by CIA Director Porter Goss, FBI Director Robert Mueller, members of Congress, leaders of the Sept. 11 commission and relatives of people killed on that terrorist attack.

The new position of national intelligence director was one of the bill's most controversial aspects. Although the legislation gives the new director strong budget authority, its language is complex enough that there could be

continued debate over the exact extent of the director's power. But Bush attempted to leave no doubt about the sweeping nature of the intelligence director's budgetary authority.

Some names that have been mentioned for the post include CIA Director Porter Goss; Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, the head of the National Security Agency; Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.

Commission members and families of attack victims lobbied persistently for the legislation through the summer political conventions, the Senate and a postelection media duck session of Congress. The bill was threatened over disagreements between the White House and key House Republicans about immigration issues and how the new national intelligence director would work with the nation's military.

## Bush prone to bold gambles and uphill fights

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's opponents call him lots of names but they don't call him timid. When it comes to taking risks, Bush has few peers.

His second-term agenda is fraught with politically troublesome priorities, if not for Bush personally then for Republicans on the ballot in 2006 and 2008.

Bush's first term was marked by big gambles: waging war in Iraq without broad international support, musing through Con-

gress a far-reaching education bill, three major tax cuts, a \$400-billion Medicare prescription drug benefit.

His new agenda is even riskier: rewriting the tax laws; making first-term tax cuts permanent; overhauling Social Security; limiting lawsuit awards; easing immigration laws.

The president continues to push for January elections in Iraq and for spreading democracy through the rest of the Middle East.

Bush wants manned flights to the Moon and Mars. He is forging

ahead on a problem-plagued national missile defense for shooting down incoming ballistic missiles.

"Bush ran for president on a platform of getting things done. And it appears that he plans on fulfilling that in a second term," GOP consultant Scott Reed said.

Is the president overreaching? "The shores of the Potomac are littered with the bones of Republicans and Democrats who have underestimated George W. Bush," Reed said.

Bush is "a big risk taker who throws long passes and takes on

things with low probability of success," said Bruce Buchanan, a University of Texas political scientist and ardent Bush watcher.

As Texas governor, Bush "had a propensity to set clear goals and pursue them doggedly. He still does that, but in a much bolder way," Buchanan said.

Bush won the 2000 election by the narrowest of margins, but acted as if he had a mandate. Many close Bush observers — and the president himself — say the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, focused him and made him a more decisive leader.

And a more defiant one, critics say.

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# Survey: FDA drug checks worry agency's scientists

By PAUL RECER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About two-thirds of Food and Drug Administration scientists are less than fully confident in the agency's monitoring of the safety of prescription drugs now being sold, according to an FDA internal survey.

Also, more than one-third of those scientists have some doubts about the process for approving new drugs, the survey found.

The survey was conducted by the Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General. Complete results were released to the public only after an advocacy group filed a Freedom of Information Act request. The release comes in the wake of safety concerns forcing removal from the market of Vioxx, an arthritis drug, and congressional testimony by an FDA scientist, Dr. David Graham, that the agency mishandled safety concerns about five other drugs.

"By all appearances, FDA would rather be sorry than safe," said Rebecca Roose, director of the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, which obtained the survey through the FOIA request. "These results show that many of Dr. Graham's colleagues share his concerns, but that those warnings are falling on deaf ears."

An agency spokesman, Brad Stone, said the survey was commissioned in 2001 and was 2 years old. He said the survey confirmed that FDA medical reviewers believe the drug decisions "appropriately assess the safety and effectiveness of drugs and the process allows for open in-depth scientific debate."

Stone said that "as with any institution" there may be individuals who may "ultimately disagree with a

consensus scientific judgment for a variety of reasons."

"Nevertheless, FDA is required to base its decisions on the best available, verifiable science," Stone said in a statement.

The survey sought the opinion of about 400 FDA scientists about the process of evaluating and approving prescription drugs. A majority of the scientists said they were "completely confident" or "mostly confident" about the FDA's decisions about the safety and efficacy of drugs approved for sale. But 31 percent were only "somewhat confident" and five percent had no confidence in the safety decisions.

About 66 percent of the experts surveyed said they were not at all confident or only somewhat confident that the FDA adequately monitors the safety of prescription drugs once they are on the market.

"The survey raises significant issues about drug safety and ongoing monitoring of adverse health impacts of drugs in the marketplace," said Kathleen Rest, executive director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a group that posted the full survey on its Web site.

Vioxx was pulled from the market on Sept. 30 by its manufacturer, Merck & Co., after a study indicated the popular pain reliever doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

The survey also asked the scientists if they had ever been pressured to approve a drug even though they had reservations about its safety, efficacy or quality.

Of 360 responses, 297, or 82 percent, of the scientists said they did not feel they had been pressured. Sixty-three, or 18 percent, said they did come under such pressure.

## NRC: New firearms research needed

WASHINGTON — A new analysis of efforts to control violence by restricting guns says there is not enough evidence to reach valid conclusions about their effectiveness.

The National Research Council said Thursday that a major research program on firearms is needed.

Among the major questions needing answers are whether there should be restrictions on who may possess firearms, on the number or types of guns that can be purchased, and whether safety locks should be required, said Wellford, professor of criminal justice at the University of Maryland.

## Mock evacuation does not go 'well'

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — A mock evacuation of Brattleboro schools intended to simulate what would happen during a disaster at the nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, went "not that well," in the words of the superintendent.

Too few school buses from New Hampshire arrived Thursday at Brattleboro Union High School to carry the number of students who would have had to been taken to an evacuation site, school officials said.

"If there are problems like this, then it's not a viable plan," schools Superintendent Ronald Stahley said of the evacuation plan for his district.

## Kerik did not fill out background

NEW YORK — Bernard Kerik, who withdrew his nomination for homeland security secretary after disclosing that he had not paid all required taxes for a nanny, did not fill out a background form when he was appointed New York City police commissioner in 2000, city officials say.

The Department of Investigation said it is examining Kerik's tenure as head of the New York Police Department under former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani but declined to cite specifics.

"DOI is absolutely seeking facts and doing interviews and looking for answers," the department said in a statement Thursday.

## Castro's granddaughter U.S. citizen

MIAMI — Cuban President Fidel Castro's granddaughter, who fled to America in 1993, has become an U.S. citizen.

Alina Salgado, 26, is the daughter of Alina Fernandez, Castro's daughter living in exile in the United States.

Salgado was sworn in at the Miami Beach Convention Center on Wednesday, among 6,000 people who became Americans during two naturalization ceremonies. She refused to comment.

From The Associated Press

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# New implant device detects symptoms of heart failure

BY JOHN PAIN

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A device that automatically detects early symptoms of congestive heart failure has been implanted in a patient in the United States for the first time.

The device is designed to allow patients to get treatment earlier and stay healthier.

When fluid levels around the heart get too high, they can interfere with a normal heartbeat and cause death. The device implanted Monday in 70-year-old Antonio Comandari of Miami monitors the amount of fluid in the chest. If there is a buildup, doctors can prescribe medication to reduce it.

The InSync Sentry device, built by Medtronic Inc. of Fridley, Minn., is about the size of a cigarette lighter and transmits radio signals that can yield a computer readout on the heart.

The device costs about \$30,000, lasts five to seven years and should be available for widespread use by February, said Dr. Comandari's physician, said Dr. Alberto Interian, chief cardiologist at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

It was approved by the Food and Drug Administration last month.

About 400,000 Americans are

candidates to receive the device, Interian said.

"More and more we're seeing patients who are living with severe congestive heart failure, where four or five years ago they'd be dead. Devices like this are improving the quality of life," he said.

Dr. Ann Bolger, a cardiologist with the American Heart Association, said the device could be helpful in catching problems quickly and helping people avoid hospitalization.

"The new part of this is basically implanting a remote sensor in the patient's body," Bolger said. "That is the very exciting part of this."

The device also works as a defibrillator to jump-start hearts and make them beat in a normal rhythm.

Comandari has had three heart attacks and thought the fourth was coming last week when he felt dizzy and collapsed in bed. On Dec. 9, he was admitted with congestive heart failure.

"I'm happy because I was chosen to get a new life," he said.

Medtronic shares were up 15 cents at \$48.10 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange. Its share has been trading about midway between the 52-week range of \$43.99 and \$53.70.

# Smell test used to help Alzheimer's detection

BY JAMIE TALAN

Newsday

The inability to identify 10 everyday smells — from smoke to soap — can be used to predict Alzheimer's disease, scientists have discovered. The smell test was as effective at diagnosis as a memory test, and better than a brain scan.

"It's easy to do," said Dr. D.P. Devanand, a professor of clinical psychiatry and neurology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. His findings were presented this week at the annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

While scientists have known for more than a decade that the brain's smell center is adversely affected in Alzheimer's, using smell tests to diagnose the disease has never caught on. Devanand has been testing the predictive value of a 40-item smell test developed by Richard Doty of the University of Pennsylvania. In the latest study, 150 patients ranging in age from 43 to 85 with mild to moderate memory prob-

lems and 63 healthy volunteers were asked to identify odors on a scratch card — one card for each smell. They were given a choice of answers.

Most normal people score between 35 and 40. People in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's, before cognitive difficulty renders them unable to understand the exercise, score in the 20s. Many of the participants arrived at Columbia's memory disorders center complaining of problems.

They were recruited into the study and have been followed for up to nine years. During that time many were diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

When researchers looked back at the results, they found that those who scored in the low 20s were at high risk for Alzheimer's.

More recently, they've narrowed the test to the smells that best predicted Alzheimer's. Inability to identify smoke topped the list.

Others were menthol, leather, lilac, pineapple, soap, strawberry, natural gas, lemon and clove. Devanand said he is not sure why these smells are more often lost to memory impairment.



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# Wingman: Dating sidekick getting his due

## Age-old flirting ploy becomes business for metropolitan entrepreneurs

BY MARTHA IRVINE

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two friends are at a party when one sees a potential love interest across the room. Immediately, the other friend swoops into action, making an introduction and helping to keep the conversation going — all so the buddy can score a phone number.

It's long been a ploy in the flirting arsenal. And now, those who ride shotgun for the sake of love have a name: They are the "wingmen" and "wingwomen" of the dating world.

"Every guy's gotta play the role of the wingman at some point in his life. It's the unwritten guy code," says Steve Dybsky, a 25-year-old Chicagoan who works in advertising and has been a wingman for friends — and had them do the same.

It became such a popular concept that people are even posting ads online, looking for a wingman to accompany them on a night on the town.

At Arriviste Press, a small Boston-based publishing house, writers have launched a Virtual Wingman service on the company's Web site. All clients have to do is plug in a few details about themselves and what sort of date they're looking for. Using that information, the virtual wingmen will craft a personal ad, free of charge.

Meanwhile, in cities such as Chicago

and New York, a person can rent out a real, live wingman on an hourly basis.

Wendy Ralph, a self-described "wingchick," is founder of the Chicago company Mr. Right Now Inc., which began by providing dates for a night — then quickly expanded when an increasing number of clients started asking for a wingperson.

"I've always been that girl, the one whose friends ask 'Will you go talk to that person for me?'" Ralph says. So, she figured: Why not make a buck doing it? Now she and the wingmen and women who work for her charge \$50 an hour for their services, accompanying clients to parties and bars and helping them meet people who catch their fancy.

Others who offer such services are finding similar success.

Shane Forbes, a computer programmer who founded the New York-based company Wingwomen a year ago, says his business has been such a hit that he now has more than 25 women working for him and, at any one time, more than 300 male clients.

He opted to work with wingwomen only because he says they're often more subtle

— and more successful in approaching other women on a client's behalf.

"If a guy talks to a girl, she knows she's being hit on," Forbes says, even if that guy is a wingman.

Jay O'Sullivan, a 28-year-old software developer in Montreal, can attest to the advantages of having a wingwoman along, especially with a group of guys.

"When you throw a woman into the mix, guys get competitive and try to be funnier," he says. "So the whole night just sort of takes off."

When O'Sullivan was planning a birthday party for a couple of co-workers last month, he posted a query on Craigslist, a popular online bulletin board, looking for wingwomen.

"We just need some responsible girls to help keep the drinks topped up, the lines to the clubs short, and the cars idling. We are NICE GUYS who like to party hard," the ad read.

He had three responses and ended up choosing one of the women, who — for \$100 Canadian and free drinks — helped the two birthday boys mix with the crowd.

"Ultimately, they didn't steal any deals,

so to speak. But it was a good time," says O'Sullivan, who plans to use the wingwoman concept again sometime.

Though it's becoming a paid gig for some, many wingpeople still are just friends who do it as a favor. Paul Reiter says that since he met his fiancée three years ago, he's become an ace wingman for his friends.

"Now I will even talk to the hottest women without being scared, since I'm there just to shoot the wind until my friend comes in with a coy remark," says Reiter, who's 27 and lives in Philadelphia.

Not that every wingman always plays it smoothly, as Dybsky — the Chicagoan who works in advertising — discovered three years ago.

He was a senior at Villanova University, and his roommate was playing the role of wingman when they met two cheerleaders for the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team.

"We were going out of our way to make myself seem like a fun guy — and things were going well," Dybsky says. Then his roommate, who'd gotten a little too drunk, abruptly threw up all over the table.

"I thought he ruined my chances," says Dybsky, who can laugh about it now. But as it turns out, he still got the phone number he was after — and a few dates with one of the cheerleaders.

Wingman's mission accomplished.

**“Every guy's gotta play the role of the wingman at some point in his life. It's the unwritten guy code.”**

**Steve Dybsky**

25-year-old Chicago resident

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# Snoop's wild world

## Gangsta rapper at home in all environments

By GREG BRAXTON

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The group of young boys shifted uneasily, eyes fixed on the gangly figure towering over them. They were an exclusive audience about to hear Snoop Dogg do his latest rap. But they didn't feel so lucky — they knew it was going to be a bad rap on them.

"You better go tringa — they can't beat us, so they're trying to cheat us!" snarled Snoop Dogg, tearing into the Rowland Heights Raiders, a team of 8- to 10-year-olds — including one of his two sons — in the Orange County Junior All-American Football League. The Raiders were taking on the Norwalk-Santa Fe Springs Saints, and though the unbearably Raiders were ahead by a touchdown at half-time, the Saints were breaking their spirit with rough-and-tumble play and crunching tackles.

The eyes of a few Raiders were wet with frustration and pain. The eyes of Snoop were narrow with rage.

"You better get your minds right, or you're gonna get beat," the Raider coach growled. "I don't care about nothing else,

'cause if you lose, I'm out! You're better than this team! You better get your focus back now, knowwhatimsayin'? Quit cryin' and do your job, get focused!" He gestured dismissively toward a cooler on the sidelines. "Now go get some oranges or something!"

Snoop ignored the nearby crowd of parents and fans in the stands of the Rowland Heights High School football stadium snapping pictures and shouting out to him. This was not show time.

For now, nothing else mattered: Not his chart-topping "Drop It Like It's Hot" single with sizzling producer Pharrell Williams that has again made him the champagne toast of the rap/pop music world. Not his just-dropped album "R&G (Rhythm & Gangsta): The Masterpiece," already a best seller. Not his star turns this year in films such as "Starsky & Hutch" and "Soul Plane" that endeared him to a cross-section of moviegoers. Not his growing status as a pitchman for corporate America.

At this moment, he was merely Coach Snoop, desperate for another notch in the win column. He says the quest for a championship trophy with his boys is more fulfilling than acting or music, his two "girl-



KURT

Snoop Dogg performs live at 102.7's KIIS-FM's fourth annual Jingle Ball held at The Pond of Anaheim in Anaheim, Calif.

friends." And the tirade worked — the Raiders trounced the Saints in the second half. Overjoyed, Snoop jumped and clowned around with the team in a victory celebration, then ran to a truck in the parking lot to award each player with a brand-new WFFF bike.

The scene united the conflicting sides of Snoop that have made him practically ubiquitous in today's pop culture — the street-wise former thug from Long Beach who can "throw down" when pushed against the wall, the showman who shines in the spotlight, and the playful, generous artist who

can turn into a 6-foot, 3½-inch kid at a moment's notice. As the rapper juggles his various prospects, youth sports has provided him much needed balance amid the showbiz whirlwind enveloping him.

More than 10 years after his lazy, distinctive drawls made him one of the top original gangsta rappers on the West Coast scene, and more than eight years after being acquitted of first- and second-degree murder charges in the shooting death of a Los Angeles gang member, Snoop Dogg (who was born Calvin Broadus) wants to turn Hollywood into — to quote one of his hits — "a Doggy Dogg world."



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**Q** When Kirsten Dunst and Jake Gyllenhaal broke up, who got their dog? — Paula Knowles, Barstow, Calif.

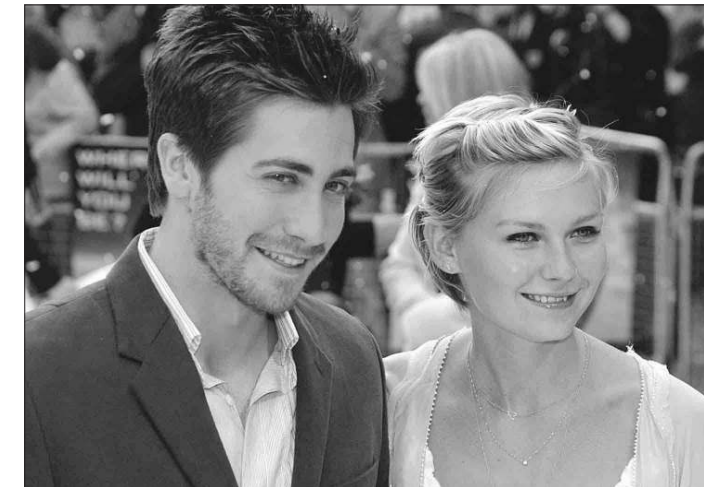
**A** For starters, we're not convinced they broke up. So who has canine custody is a moot point. Jake, who turns 24 today, and Kirsten, 22, have been spotted canoodling since their reported split last summer. But it seems that Atticus — the lop-eared German shepherd mix they adopted — spends more time with best bud Jake.

**Q** I saw Cody Gifford, son of Kathie Lee and Frank Gifford, on "Teen Kids News." Are any of the other kids on that syndicated program from showbiz families? — Gloria Karolenko, Woodstock, Md.

**A** Yes. Cody's colleagues include Meredith Vieira's son, Ben Cohen, 16; Paula Zahn's daughter, Haley Cohen, 15; and Jenna Ruggiero, 15, daughter of Rosanna Scott, news anchor for the Fox TV station in New York. "Teen Kids News" is taped on Friday afternoons, as Cody, 14, and his pals insist on having week-end off.

**Q** In your view, what is the single biggest obstacle to capturing Osama bin Laden, who is said to be hiding out on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan? — James Wolf, Tallahassee, Fla.

**A** The No. 1 impediment is the political situation inside Pakistan. Though Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has vowed to capture Osama, members of his military and intelligence services have clandestine ties to al-Qaida. Musharraf is trying to force these



Rumors of the breakup of actors Jake Gyllenhaal and Kirsten Dunst appear to be greatly exaggerated.

officers into early retirement. Our hopes of catching Osama may rest on the success of his housecleaning.

**Q** Lady Bird Johnson has been out of the spotlight since her

stroke in 2002. How is her health?

**A** — Carolyn H., Yorba Linda, Calif.  
As good as can be expected for a woman who turns 92 this week. Mrs. Johnson's stroke makes it difficult to understand her speech, yet she attends events at the LBJ Library in Austin and spends time at her ranch in Stone- wall, Texas.

**Q** Oprah Winfrey has the peculiar thin look associated with lap-band or gastric-bypass surgery. Has she recently had such a procedure? — A. Stephens, Richardson, Texas

**A** Had, she would be the first to tell the world about it. Oprah, 50, has been completely open with her audience about her ceaseless struggle to lose weight through diet and exercise.

**Q** Whatever became of child star Bobby Driscoll, who played Johnny in 1946's "Song of the South"? — B.H., Atlanta, Ga.

**A** Bobby — just 13 when he got a special Oscar in 1950 for powerful performances in the thriller

"The Window" and the family drama "So Dear to My Heart" — quit acting in 1957 to take a "straight job." Sadly, his life quickly slid downhill with multiple arrests for drug possession, assault and forgery, a six-month prison sentence and a trip to a psychiatric hospital. In March 1968, Driscoll died penniless and alone in an abandoned New York tenement. He's buried in Potter's Field on nearby Hart Island.



Johnny Depp will play Willy Wonka in Tim Burton's remake of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

**Q** When will I see more of country goddess Shania Twain? — Tim Gallagher, Albany, N.Y.

**A** Just in videos on CMT's "100 Greatest Hits" special this Wednesday. After exhausting tours for her 2002 CD "Up!" and her new "Greatest Hits" album, Shania, 39, looks forward to returning to the Swiss chateau she shares with her reclusive producer-husband, "Mutt" Lange, and 3-year-old son, Eja (pronounced Asia). She plans to focus on raising Eja, writing songs and riding her horses.

**Q** I heard that Robin Williams, Nicolas Cage and Steve Martin all want to play Willy Wonka when "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is remade. Which one will get the role? —

**A** — Ted Levine, New York, N.Y.  
None of the above. Director Tim Burton chose Johnny Depp, 41, to star as Willy. Helena Bonham Carter, 38 — Burton's girlfriend and the mother of his son Billy, 1 — plays Charlie's mom.



Williams

**Q** You said Stephin Merritt wrote the song "Book of Love" for the movie "Shall We Dance"? But didn't that song appear on an earlier CD? — June Sobieski, Los Angeles, Calif.

**A** Yes. A handful of readers reminded us that Merritt, 38, of the band The Magnetic Fields included "Book of Love" on a 1999 CD, "69 Love Songs." "The album is a cynical manifesto about love songs, not a collection of songs about love," he tells us. His band's new CD, titled "1," features 14 tracks, starting with that letter.

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## RELIGION

# 'Holy Huddle' helps football fans keep faith

BY BOBBY ROSS JR.  
The Associated Press

DALLAS — For a long time, the Dallas Cowboys cast the Unity Church of Dallas people and money.

On Sundays when the Cowboys kicked off at noon, some members stayed home. Others left worship early — before tithing time — to avoid missing the opening snap.

"They were putting up announcements saying, 'Don't trample the children when you stampeede out of here before the service ends,'" half-joked Denise Maimelle, 50.

Then church members Ken Sutherland and Mike Connor approached the pastor with a suggestion: Why not show the Cowboys game on a big screen in the church fellowship hall? The Rev. Ellen Debenport thought a "Holy Huddle" was a fine idea. "I preach all the time that we need to live balanced lives," said Debenport, the 1,000-member church's senior minister. "If someone's interested in church and football and being with their families on Sunday, I think that's great. So if we can accommodate that and build community in the church at the same time, that's fine with me."

Across the football-crazed nation, the temptation to skip services in favor of the home team challenges many regular churchgoers this time of year.

Some, like Tim McMillen, who operates a Pittsburgh Steelers fan Web site, do the best they can. In one post, McMillen wrote



Carol Scott, right, and others walk through a buffet line at the Unity Church of Dallas fellowship hall as they gather to watch the Dallas Cowboys take on the Minnesota Vikings following church service Nov. 21 in Dallas. On Sundays when the Cowboys kicked off at noon, some members stayed home. Others left worship early, before tithing time, to avoid missing the opening snap.

that he would play on the church praise team, "then burn rubber back home to catch the start of the game."

"Any old ladies who get up in my way coming out of church are gonna be very sorry," he joked.

Larry Ghan, an elder at the Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in

Pocatello, Idaho, said he almost always picks God over football.

Occasionally, though, a Minnesota Vikings kickoff at 11 a.m. Mountain time is just too much to resist.

On a recent Sunday, Ghan had little choice but to attend service: The congrega-

tion was counting on him to preside over the communion.

"My first commitment is to the Lord, so I'm going to be there," he said. "But that doesn't mean I'm not a little bit edgy and twitchy wondering how the Vikes are doing."

In Brentwood, Tenn., south of Nashville, the lure of the Tennessee Titans played into one church's decision to start a Saturday night service.

"They get the same sermon and most of the same hymns," said the Rev. Howard Olds, senior pastor of Brentwood United Methodist Church.

Most importantly, they get Sunday morning free to watch the Titans, let their children play in a youth soccer game or engage in other family activities, Olds said.

In the Green Bay, Wis., area, it's not uncommon for churches to review the Packers schedule before setting the times of church events. So when the NFL recently moved two noon games to 3 p.m., the Rev. Don Behrendt of Peace Lutheran Church found it difficult to hide his displeasure.

All of a sudden, the church's 4 p.m. children's Christmas program found itself smack in the path of the Packers.

At the last minute, the church changed the December program to 1 p.m. to avoid the conflict. A newspaper editorial criticized the decision, describing any parent who would miss a child's Christmas program to watch a football game as a jerk.

"I would agree with that," Behrendt said. "But you don't want kids to find out their parents are jerks any more than they have to."

## tobyMac's new CD puts a musical spin on diversity

BY BRIAN BOWERS  
Stars and Stripes

When tobyMac envisions the Bible's shining city on a hill, he sees a diverse place.

It's a place without barriers dividing what he calls "God's artistic handiwork." So, it seems natural for him to name a CD "Welcome to Diverse City."

"It's been something that's been important to me all my life," said Toby McKeehan, whose new disc was nominated for a Grammy earlier this month.

"Diversity, to me, is in everything I do. From my record label, Gotee Records, to my album and my family," said McKeehan, who has adopted biracial twins. "I want to live that way and not just proclaim it."

McKeehan grew up near Washington, D.C., and his childhood heroes had all different shades of skin. He started his career with the multiracial band dc talk, which made its own place for racial harmony with the song "Colored People." However, "I began traveling all around the United States and not everyone had the privilege of being raised in a place that's so diverse ... and I wanted to welcome everyone to diversity. ...

"We will never be a truly shining city on the hill until we are diverse."

McKeehan's new disc com-

ments on the issue in the title track and other songs, but true to its name it's a very diverse package. Its themes range from praise, to relationships to the pressures of everyday life. Stylistically, it flows from hip-hop to funk to rock and back. Short transition tracks effectively bind the main songs together to form a cohesive and thoroughly enjoyable package.

It's a mix that has grabbed a lot of fans since its October release. The disc has been nominated for a Grammy for the year's best rock gospel album and the single "Gone" is planted atop the Christian radio charts.

The disc opens with "Hey Now," a hip-hop proclamation that tobyMac's back — two years after his first solo effort, the acclaimed "Momentum."

The disc bounds into hard rock with "Slam," which asserts the message of Jesus is for everyone no matter their color or their sins. And the song "Diverse City" slides into a funk beat as it as it builds its case for human har-

### Today's praise

mony.

The disc does an excellent job of translating the big picture into a personal view. "Atmosphere" encourages someone in tears and alone. The pop-oriented "Gone" — the disc's first single and one of its best tracks — scolds a friend who's been unfaithful to his girlfriend. "Stories" describes the personal accounts of people who've "been down to the bottom," but remain certain that

"God will see us through." And McKeehan offers a glimpse of his personal struggle against getting sucked into too many activities in "Gotta Go."

Although many of the topics are pretty heavy, much of the disc is quite light-hearted. "Gone," "Gotta Go" and "TruDog" — a rap by his young son Truett — are downright fun.

"So many times you would consider music coming from a Christian person, Christian music, as

really heavy ... but I really wanted to put on some songs about a person walking through this world, a believer, having a good time," McKeehan said.

The disc's last song is a remix of "Atmosphere," featuring the voices of dc talk bandmates Kevin Max and Michael Tate.

"I just sat there with this song messing with it ... and, every time I sat there, I heard Michael and Kevin's voices in it," McKeehan said.

So, he called the pair and they agreed to participate. However, that doesn't mean a reunion tour is imminent.

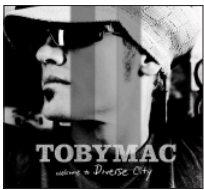
"dc talk is alive and well," McKeehan said. "We're climbing separate creative mountains right now. ... For now, there's a lot of life in this climb called solo."

Finally, McKeehan wanted to pass along a message to the military community: "I would like to say thank you to all of the men and women serving our nation and sacrificing for our freedom. And may God bless them."

On the Web: [www.tobyMac.com](http://www.tobyMac.com).

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: [bowers@stripes.com](mailto:bowers@stripes.com).



Courtesy of EMI Music

"Welcome to Diverse City," by tobyMac, has been nominated for a 2004 Grammy for Rock Gospel Album.

"Gotta Go" and "TruDog" — a rap by his young son Truett — are downright fun.

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# "told them to be strong"

## Years after fleeing for his life, anti-logging activist returns to minister to Philippines as Navy chaplain

BY JULIANA GITTLER  
Stars and Stripes

INFANTA, Philippines — More than a decade ago, Navy Chaplain Lt. Cerino O. Bangola was a priest in the southern Philippines. Like many of his counterparts, he opposed illegal logging.

The bishop of his diocese helped to intensify their opposition by transforming the local priests into law-enforcement agents empowered to stop the loggers.

"We were deputized as forest guards," Bangola said. "We had police powers to apprehend illegal loggers."

Bangola rallied his parish, and its members found and arrested illegal loggers in their community. It marked a success for environmental protection and the start of a new chapter in his life — a chapter that would lead to his exile, and his return a decade later.

"After that I was in trouble," he said. "They wanted me dead."

Bangola said he received death threats from illegal loggers and had to have a bodyguard. When the priest from a neighboring parish was assassinated, the bishop decided Bangola had to leave.

He was sent to Diego Garcia as a contract priest and lived there for seven years, until his career's next twist.

In 2001, at age 42, he joined the Navy, aided by the Navy chaplains at Diego Garcia he befriended over the years.

He needed three special waivers from the Navy, he said: one for his age, one because he wasn't a U.S. citizen and one for an eye condition.

Newly added to the Navy ranks, he moved to Okinawa and began the first of two tours serving with the Marine Corps.

This week, Bangola returned to the Philippines as part of a joint task force conducting humanitarian relief. He saw the devastation he believes was caused by something he so passionately opposed 13 years ago.

Weeks ago — after a succession of storms hit the coast of Luzon south of Manila — hundreds of illegally-cut logs began to flow in a mud slide created in part by deforestation, according to the Philippine government.

The mud slide carried away homes and families, and logs killed people trying to swim to safety, residents of one town said.

In the small town of Infanta, the local priest died helping to rescue people from the flowing debris. The community church was filled with mud. Families began burying their loved ones, but no religious services were performed to lay them to rest.

When Marines arrived in the town to deliver supplies this week, Bangola saw a special opportunity.

On the steps of the remains of a building near the Red Cross tent, he held Mass for the townspeople, giving them, he said, the chance to start to heal. It was the first service they'd had since the storms.

Several hundred people stood solemnly in muddy rubber boots or bare feet to listen to Bangola speak. Scratched on a wall behind him was the sentence "Pls [please] do overcome our hunger."

Holding bags of Red Cross rice, people joined Bangola in songs of hope.

"It's important to those people," he said. "People here are traumatized. I gave them hope; I told them to be strong."

It was a pivotal day in his life, he said, and one he will never forget.

"I was really touched."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.com.oll



The University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, has assembled an international collection of 1,200 nativity scenes from 45 countries, including several creches by artists from New Mexico. This scene was crafted by Mary Toya of Jemez Pueblo, N.M.

## Nativity scenes reflect local culture, history

BY JAMES HANNAH  
The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Baby Jesus wears blue jeans and a Western shirt. The Wise Men are American Indian chiefs, one in full headdress.

Instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts include water, corn and a drum.

The University of Dayton has assembled a collection of 1,200 nativity scenes from 45 countries, and one thing stands out immediately: Creches reveal what's important to a culture. Artists make the birth of Jesus more relevant by wrapping it in their local customs, costumes and values.

The Pueblo Indian scene with Jesus in jeans is just one example. It's among 19 sets crafted by artists in New Mexico that are the latest to be exhibited from the collection.

"You don't find a religion that is devoid of culture," said the Rev. Johann Roten, director of the Marian Library at Dayton.

And the converse is true as well, he said: Religion enriches culture.

Visions of the Nativity in the university's collection are as different as the places that produced them.

A clown — holding a string of red, yellow and green balloons — is in one German scene that also is festooned with a snowman, a Santa Claus and a walking puppeteer. A figure in a long white beard smokes a pipe with a curved stem.

German creches often include Santa. "The Germans are very much into St. Nicholas," said Tim Bennett, an associate professor at Wittenberg University in Springfield. "It's a reflection of the gift-giving."

In a Mexican set, Mary and Jesus lie in the sand surrounded by cactus and burnt-orange pottery figures in sombreros. Standing with his back to the others is Satan, who has the skull of a cow on his head and is clutching a pitchfork and bottle of liquor.

The use of Satan comes from the days when the Spanish conquistadors used the fear of the devil to convert Mexico's Mayan Indians to Christianity, said Artimus Keiffer, assistant professor of geography at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

"It was either Satan or Christ. You picked one or the other," he said.

In one Pueblo scene, the stable is replaced with an adobe hut, and the manger is on a medicine board, used by nomadic tribes to carry babies. Bears, lizards, snakes and frogs circle Mary, Joseph and Jesus. The clay figures have crude hands and faces and are cast in soft earthen hues of brown and tan.

"They seem more homelike and homey," said Judy Bruckner, who came to see the exhibit. "It gives you an overwhelming feeling of comfortableness and contentment."

The pottery figurines are Christian in origin but also have strong cultural features, Roten said.

"The only part of the figures that is highly developed is the mouth and nose," he said. "The nose is the connecting organ with nature — it's how we receive the breath of life and is a characteristic of living beings."

"Similarly, the open, rounded mouth speaks of forth and also reflects the popular tradition of storytelling."

One set was collected in Nigeria in the 1960s. It features intricately carved wooden figures by the side of a stream. Some have umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun. Some women are carrying stacks of firewood on their heads.

"We quite rightly should want to see nativity scenes in all the different cultures," said Robin Margaret Jensen, professor of history of Christian art and worship at Vanderbilt University. "We don't know who Mary and Jesus looked like. It addresses the problem of always showing them as Western Europeans."

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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## A fatal test

**ID** OROFINO — A man has been charged with involuntary manslaughter for fatally shooting his friend through a protective vest on an apparent dare, police said.

Alexander Joseph Swandic, 20, died of a gunshot wound to the heart after donning a protective vest and asking David John Hueth, 30, to shoot him, police said.

Hueth initially told police that Swandic's wound was self-inflicted, but later admitted to the shooting. The two had apparently tested the vest by dropping it against a dirt bank and shooting it twice, police said.

Hueth faces a preliminary hearing on Dec. 27. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

## PETA punishment

**AK** ANCHORAGE — An animal rights group is recommending that an Anchorage woman accused of neglecting more than 100 cats in her home get psychiatric help if convicted of animal cruelty.

PETA sent a letter to city prosecutor Nick Spilopoulos setting out what it thinks should happen in the case of Krystal Allen, a 52-year-old woman charged with two counts of animal cruelty for allegedly keeping animals in an inhumane manner by failing to provide adequate food, water, housing and care. A third count of animal cruelty stems from an incident in which Allen allegedly hit a cat so hard it hit a wall.

The charges are misdemeanors. Each is punishable by a maximum one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

## Fog collision

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Two tractor trailers and at least 10 cars collided in dense fog on a Northern California highway. No one was killed but several people were injured, officials said.

Visibility was about an eighth of a mile when the pileup occurred on Interstate 5 north of Sacramento, the California Highway Patrol said. A dump truck lay on its side and several cars were crushed in the pileup.

Officials could not immediately comment on the severity or number of injuries.

## Snake slithers into mail

**MO** CLIFTON — A Missouri family's pet snake, missing for a month, turned up alive and slithering in a box they had sent to New Jersey, about 1,000 miles away.

The box contained a DVD player that was being sent for repairs.

The family believes Pace the python crawled into the box before they sealed it and sent it to the factory via UPS.

Sheila Himmerick said her family had been looking for the snake when she received a call from Samsung's New Jersey repair shop, CVE Inc., wondering if the snake in the box belonged to her and where it was her way of expressing customer dissatisfaction.

Paco will be shipped back home to Missouri, this time in temperature-controlled comfort.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man bites dog

**FL** GAINESVILLE — A man has been charged with animal cruelty for allegedly biting his Jack Russell terrier as punishment, and police say he used a 200-pound bull mastiff in an attempt to keep back officers who arrived to arrest him.

The mother of Mount Lee Lacy's girlfriend called police because she was concerned about an argument between him and her daughter about Lacy's unusual discipline method for his dog Lady.

Officers kicked down the apartment door when they heard an argument and a barking dog. Lacy was holding the mastiff named Breaker on a turtleneck 6 feet inside the door. The officers drew their guns but didn't fire.

Lacy, 21, was handcuffed and jailed on one count each of felony animal cruelty and resisting arrest without violence.

## House built under bridge

**IL** CHICAGO — For three or four years, a homeless man achieved the impossible: He found a cheap place to live on pricey Lake Shore Drive.

Actually, Richard Dorsay lived under Lake Shore Drive, in a wooden shack built into the beams and girders of the drawbridge that crosses the Chicago River.



## Keeping balance

Thomas Thale, dressed as a toy soldier and on stilts, gathers his streamers and bag as he attempts to climb the stairs outside KSDK plaza in St. Louis.

Dorsay was recently evicted after another man arrested in suburban Streamwood told police about the home under the bridge.

When authorities went inside, they found an elaborate setup that tapped into the bridge's electricity to power a television, microwave, space heater and PlayStation video game system. There, Dorsay could relax, turn on a Chicago Bears game, invite friends over and pop open some beers.

The home had it quirks. Whenever Dorsay heard the bells that signal the arms of the bridge would soon rise to let boats through, he held on as the bridge slowly pitched him forward.

## Founder statue planned

**TX** HOUSTON — A 60-foot statue of Texas founding father Stephen F. Austin is planned for an Angleton park near one of his early settlements.

The concrete statue, scheduled for completion in May, will tower over a 10-acre park. Promoters said they believed it was time to honor Austin.

Being created by Houston sculptor David Adickes at his Houston warehouse studio, the statue will show Austin in fringed buckskin with a 52-foot rifle at his side. It will be just a few feet shorter than "Big Sam," Adickes' gargantuan concrete-and-steel image of statesman Sam Houston erected near Huntsville in 1994.

Austin is hailed as the "Father of Texas" for his role in bringing thousands of Anglo settlers to Texas when it was controlled by Mexico, and his namesake is the state's capital.

## Nude lamp debate

**VT** MONTPELIER — A group preparing to celebrate the life of a Vermont-born sculptor is petitioning Gov. James Douglas to have a replica of Hiram Powers' most famous work — which portrays a nude chained woman — on his Statehouse desk.

The petitioners, who include the wife of U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, say "The Greek Slave" is one of the most important pieces of art ever created by a Vermont native.

The governor wants the lamp that incorporates the replica removed from his office desk during the upcoming legislative session. Douglas spokesman Jason Gibbs said the governor was concerned the statue could be broken, but he also said there was concern that school children would see the nude.

Gibbs said the lamp would remain on display at the Statehouse while the Legislature is in session, but not on the governor's desk.

## Twins deliver twins

**GA** ATLANTA — Two twin sisters are seeing double — or make that quadruple — after delivering two sets of twin boys.

Twenty-one-year-olds Ashley Spinks of Indianapolis and Andrea Springer of Conyers, Georgia, delivered their boys by scheduled Caesarean sections about an hour apart at Northside Hospital.

The two couples said twins run in the families of all four parents, and that they did not use fertility drugs to conceive the babies.



All I want is sleep A Santa-in-training lets Gavin Eshleman, 4 months, take a little rest during a visit to Park City Mall in Lancaster, Pa.



Practice makes perfect Anna Kicas, a senior at Traverse City West Senior High School in Traverse City, Mich., practices with other members of TC West's orchestra. The group was preparing for their upcoming performance at the Michigan Music Educators Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Making repairs Alexandra Rum paints a statue of a shepherd from a manger scene at St. Mary's Church in Fishkill, N.Y.





If the snow won't come to you ... Janina Richmond-Reck, 4, makes an angel in a bunch of leaves in Independence, Kan.



A tasteful gift Nonja, 52, the oldest orangutan in the United States, opens a holiday gift filled with bananas, raisins, and popcorn at Miami Metrozoo in Miami. Throughout the month of December, animals in the zoo receive wrapped gifts filled with their favorite treats as part of an annual celebration.



Standing tall Snow lies on the statue "Lincoln Walks at Midnight" in front of the West Virginia state capitol in Charleston, W.Va.



Moving time Matt Lippiatt of Anderson, S.C., carries the boxspring of a mattress set to a delivery truck outside Hampton Furniture in Anderson, S.C.

## Drug deal busted

**ID** NEZ PERCE — A man picked the wrong location for an alleged drug deal. Telling an eyewitness to mind his own business also was not a good idea.

It was in front of the home of Lewis County's sheriff-elect, who was sitting on his front porch.

"They really picked the wrong house to be in front of," said Phil Steen, who will be sworn into office next month.

Steen had only lived in the home about three weeks when he decided to enjoy the evening air. But some suspicious activity on the street impaired his view.

Instead of looking elsewhere, Steen ran the suspects' license plates. It led to a search of two houses and a vehicle, then the arrest of James MacArthur, 46.

MacArthur is charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## Let it Snow

**PA** DORMONT — Forget all that stuff about a white Christmas. Jeweler Barry Landay's customers are hoping for a white New Year's Day.

That's because, for the fourth straight year, Landay's Style Jewelry in this Pittsburgh suburb is offering a full refund to anyone who buys jewelry between now and Christmas Eve if at least six inches of snow fall at Pittsburgh International Airport on New Year's Day.

Landay hasn't had to pay up in past years. But he's not crazy — he's insured by a policy covering the promotion.

The sign in the window of Landay's store reads "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow" and features another big word: Free.

## Giant seaplane found

**ID** HONOLULU — Researchers cataloging underwater debris around Pearl Harbor have made a giant discovery — the wreckage of one of the largest aircraft ever built.

A Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory submersible found the main body of the Marshall Mars, a Navy seaplane that had a 200-foot wingspan and sank following an engine fire in 1950.

The Mars aircraft series was built to move cargo, primarily between California and Hawaii. The Mars Marshall once carried more than 308 people aloft, a record at the time.

Pieces of the Mars Marshall were first found in August when the nose and keel were found, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

## Rancher charged

**UT** LOGAN — A 69-year-old rancher who authorities allege habitually let his cattle run loose was arrested for manslaughter after a woman was killed in a collision with one of his cows, police said.

Darrell Kunzler of Benson was arrested, according to the Utah Highway Patrol. Kimberly Johnson of Auburn, Wash., a 40-year-old mother of six, was killed Nov. 27 when her vehicle collided with one of Kunzler's Black Angus steers on Utah Route 30.

According to an arrest warrant, Kunzler has a 30-year pattern of

failing to properly contain his livestock, despite repeated requests by law enforcement.

Kunzler is charged with one count of criminal homicide, manslaughter and five misdemeanor counts of reckless endangerment.

## Judge's robe disputed

**AL** MONTGOMERY — A judge refused to delay a trial when an attorney objected to his wearing a judicial robe with the Ten Commandments embroidered on the front in gold.

Circuit Judge Ashley McKathan showed up at his Covington County courtroom in southern Alabama wearing the robe. Attorneys who try cases at the courthouse said they had not seen him wearing it before. The commandments were described as being big enough to read by anyone near the judge.

Attorney Riley Powell, defending a client charged with DUI, filed a motion objecting to the robe and asking that the case be continued. He said McKathan denied both motions.

McKathan said that he believes the Ten Commandments represent the truth "and you can't divorce the law from the truth. ... The Ten Commandments can help a judge know the difference between right and wrong."

He said he doesn't believe the commandments on his robe would have an adverse effect on jurors.

## Sloppy thieves

**MO** POPLAR BLUFF — To catch two suspects, police needed only to follow the trail of stolen goods — literally.

In their haste to make off with stolen items, the thieves dropped some of them along the way, creating a series of obvious clues for police to follow.

Police said the trail was about 100 yards long, and led from a burglarized store, DCC Enterprises, to a residence where the suspects were hiding with stolen merchandise.

Two juveniles were arrested on suspicion of second-degree burglary and stealing more than \$500.

## Police search for mother

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Police are asking the public to help find the mother of a dead infant found in the wastewater tank of a Greyhound bus.

The body of a third-trimester boy was found by a bus maintenance worker after the bus arrived in the city. Police are particularly interested in speaking to passengers who were on the bus.

"We don't know if the child ever breathed," police Lt. John Hennessey said. "We want to know if anybody saw anyone who was emotionally distressed or who may have given birth."

## Governor to sell license

**WY** CHEYENNE — Gov. Dave Laramie has again offered his complimentary big-game hunting licenses for sale to benefit a variety of Wyoming wildlife-related projects, according to the governor's office. By statute, the governor can receive up to 20 complimentary big-game licenses each year. In 2003 and 2004, the governor's big game licenses raised \$730,000 for wildlife-related projects.

Stories and photos from wire services

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## Women don't belong in infantry

In response to the Oct. 28 letter "Let female GIs contribute," this subject is so delicate for any enlisted male to speak about, let alone write about.

So, leaving all personal opinions aside, I say if females want to go into infantry units, then let them in. But in doing so, you have to leave the playing field completely, starting with physical fitness requirements and body fat requirements.

Living quarters in garrison should be opposite sex as roommates. Females should also have to register for the Selective Service as all men do when they turn 18.

Right now it is obvious to most infantry noncommissioned officers that the military is more concerned with quantity than quality. It would rather have beefed up battalions with as many personnel as possible, regardless of how many of them have to be carried or excessively helped along the way.

Since we are already letting anyone who tells his recruiter that he wants infantry into the infantry, why limit it to kids who can barely hack it? Open the door completely to females, too.

Then do anonymous surveys of the units that have been integrated. See how many men complain about having to "pick up the slack" or do extra sandbag working parties, or carry gun systems that much farther on a hump.

See how many sexual harassment cases you have in those units, how many unwanted pregnancies you have. Watch and see how long morale goes.

Women have played a large role in the war on terrorism in support roles. No one can deny that. And yes, this is a different fight than America has had in the past. The war has changed, the world has changed and militaries have changed. The only thing that has not changed is the fact that the United States has won every major fight it has been in for years and years. So I say either rewrite the whole program, or drop it.

If the U.S. war machine isn't broke, don't try to fix it.

Marine Sgt. Michael David Titus  
Al Quaim, Iraq

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address and phone and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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## Only infantry deserves CIB

Despite the pleas by all noninfantry soldiers out there who think that because they perform a few tasks that they should be awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for their service in this war, there is a time when the Army calls on its best to go to the job. And I can guarantee you it is not those who are out there crying about not getting a CIB.

I had the chance to be part of the operation to take out the insurgents in Najaf, Iraq, in August. All of these so-called infantrymen out there were doing maybe a patrol, maybe a raid, or even a snap traffic control point. Heaven forbid the Army asks you to perform basic soldiering skills. I guess you don't remember that you are a soldier first and your military occupational specialty second.

In regard to Najaf, our commander called the best trained battalion in the 1st Cavalry Division, an infantry battalion, because he knew that was our job. The key word there is our "job." Others may be asked to do things that are similar to our job, but I can assure them that they do nothing like us.

Ask around next time Najaf comes up. You will find out that only we should be awarded the CIB because only we can do the job we did.

Spc. Kenji Nihipali  
Camp Striker, Baghdad

## Photo tells too much

We have met the enemy, and he is us. Stripes' decision to put a large and clear picture of a field-expedient armored Humvee on the front page on Dec. 11, with a text explanation that the armor is only there for looks, to fool the enemy into believing that the vehicle is too hardened to waste ammunition, is a good reminder the enemy that these vehicles are indeed soft targets. Nice going, buddy!

What will Stripes tell the families of the next men to be killed in the vehicles it has just informed the enemy of what about?

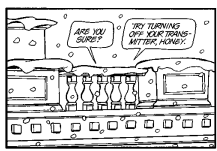
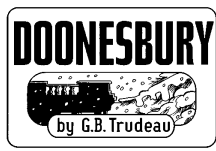
Col. Jared A. Kline  
Brussels, Belgium

## ACLU fights for wrong cause

This is in response to the Nov. 29 letter "Politics aside, respect ACLU!" I would just like to ask the writer one question: How does he feel about the fact that the American Civil Liberties Union, a group he so proudly donates money to every year, is currently defending a hideous group known as NAMBLA? NAMBLA, which stands for North American Man/Boy Love Association, is a group committed to repealing laws prohibiting sexual conduct between [consenting] adults and children. The ACLU, in defending its decision to represent such a vile group, maintains that it protects the First Amendment rights of all groups, no matter what the content of speech they are protecting.

Aside from the obvious argument of free speech not allowing you to put "it" in a crowded theater, I wonder what happens to the ACLU's fierce loyalty to the First Amendment when they go after school groups who wish to sing traditional Christmas carols? Respect the ACLU? You've got to be kidding me.

Staff Sgt. Steve Brenneman  
Sembach Air Base, Germany



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross-section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Tough to adapt on the fly  
Chicago Tribune

War is an inherently unpredictable enterprise. History is replete with examples of tactics and weapons that work well in one conflict, only to prove fatally obsolete in the next. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld struggled to make that point to soldiers in Kuwait.

The Pentagon is scrambling to adjust to the unforeseen hazards of the Iraq occupation. ... The basic mistake in this instance was expecting an orderly aftermath, a speedy handover of power to Iraqis, and an early American withdrawal. When Rumsfeld said, "You go to war with the army you have ... not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time," he might have added that the force that invaded Iraq in March 2003 was perfectly equipped to destroy the Iraqi army and topple its dictator.

But a military designed for tank battles in the desert against a traditional enemy is not necessarily ideal for a guerrilla war in alien territory, which is what Iraq has become. ...

With better planning and more attention to uncertainties by civilian leaders, maybe it won't have to do so much adapting in the next war.

U.N. status quo poor symbol  
The Chronicle, Centralia, Wash.

Face it. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights is an unmitigated farce and the United States does well to drop its membership.

A case in point is a recent report by a U.N. panel sponsored by Secretary-General Kofi Annan that rejected the proposal of any standards whatever for human rights on the commission. One effect of that is that Sudan will not lose its seat on the 53-member body even though Sudan is accused by the United States of committing genocide in its western Darfur province.

There's more: The commission is expected next year to seek to prohibit the introduction of resolutions aimed at specific countries for human rights violations. The commission could do little more than approve resolutions condemning religious persecution or suppression of labor without identifying perpetrators. ...

We don't blame [U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John] Danforth for stepping down from his post after just four months.

Death Row made for Peterson  
San Francisco Chronicle

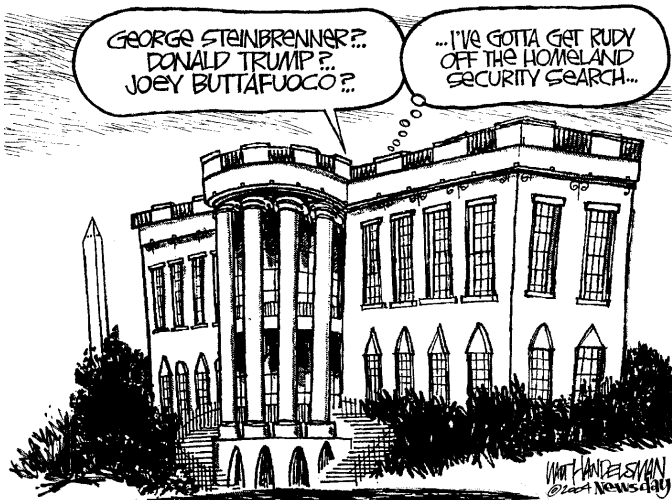
For once, the system worked.

If we are going to have a death penalty in California — and the need for a serious review is compelling — it was tailor-made for Scott Peterson. His crime was reprehensible, his guilt was overwhelming, his legal representation was first-class, his trial was thorough and fair. ...

He earned his place on Death Row.

Just remember, however, this case is atypical. The overwhelming majority of Peterson's 650 Death Row counterparts in California never had superstar attorney Mark Geragos at their side and a legion of legal experts scrutinizing every detail of a six-month trial.

The debate over the death penalty should not be about Peterson. ... It should be about the potential margin of error in many other convictions. It should be about the evidence that suggests capital punishment is not a deterrent. It surely was not for Peterson. It should be about the morality of the state taking a life.

Not set with how Bush vets  
The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

One Democratic insider described President Bush's nominee to head the Homeland Security Department, Bernard Kerik, as "a colorful guy." On [Dec. 10], the former New York City police commissioner abruptly withdrew from being considered to replace Tom Ridge as head of the huge department.

Officially, the reason Mr. Kerik gave was that he discovered this month that he had a "nanny problem." It turns out that a Mexican woman he had hired to care for his two young children was an illegal alien. ...

However, many insiders think Mr. Kerik's "nanny" problem might have been a convenient excuse to avoid tougher scrutiny of his colorful and controversial past. That well-documented record raises questions about how well the Bush administration's vetting process works. The president introduced Mr. Kerik as his nominee even before all the paperwork was done or an FBI background check was completed. ...

If the White House doesn't do a more thorough job, it means Senate confirmation hearings must be more rigorous.

Inguenity in U.S. arsenal  
Durango (Colo.) Herald

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was visiting an Army base in Kuwait when Army Spc. Thomas Wilson asked him why his unit was short of needed equipment. ...

The secretary of defense responded with what amounted to a verbal shrug. "You go to war with the Army you have," Rumsfeld said, "not the Army you might want or wish to have."

But, few armies are organized and equipped for the wars they end up fighting. That is what is so glaringly wrong with Rumsfeld's response to Wilson.

The U.S. Army is its own best example. The Army that existed at the start of World War II was equipped largely with a mixture of antiquated and wishful thinking. Maneuvers were carried out with trucks filling in for armor with the word "tank" painted on their sides.

But in less time than U.S. troops have been in Iraq, the United States changed that into the best-equipped military in the world. ...

In 2004, however, Rumsfeld is essentially saying the United States cannot put armor on cars and trucks.

After the episode, Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., wrote to Rumsfeld, calling his response to Wilson "unacceptable." That kind of congressional involvement is exactly what is needed. There should, and perhaps now will, be more of it.

Humble pie and food supply  
Chicago Tribune

Departing Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson set off alarms [this month], saying he worries "every single night" about the possibility of a bioterrorist attack on the nation's food supply. ...

That sounded to many people like an invitation, and the Bush administration moved pretty quickly to dampen any anxiety.

After all, it's much more likely that Americans will get food poisoning by not properly cleaning a cutting board used to chop raw chicken. But it's worth knowing what risks there are that someone could tamper with the food chain, and what's being done about it. ...

Critics say new Food and Drug Administration rules are insufficient. The Center for Science in the Public Interest is pressing for the government to consolidate food oversight within a single group. ...

Thompson's blunt comments underscore that, given the vast size of the food distribution system, it may be impossible to prevent a bioterrorism attack of some form. But the new FDA requirements should at least help protect the public against threats to food safety. A quick response through the improved tracking of food could save lives.

No honor in omitting specifics  
The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

Jessica Lynch, an unassuming young Army private from West Virginia, and Pat Tillman, the defensive back who gave up his \$3.6 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals to become an Army Ranger, made sacrifices serving their nation that needed no embellishment.

But by committing sins of omission and addition, the Pentagon foisted off storybook versions of Army Pfc. Lynch's capture and

rescue in Iraq and of Cpl. Tillman's ultimate sacrifice in the mountains of Afghanistan.

The misrepresentation of Tillman's death, however, is more egregious.

Tillman ... was reportedly killed by enemy fire on April 22. Shortly after, military officials said Tillman likely was hit by friendly fire. ... But the full story is only now coming to light, and it is one of botched communications, a highly questionable order to split up Tillman's platoon during patrol, and too-quick-on-the-trigger reactions by young Rangers.

It's insulting to all Americans.

This nation has lost sons and daughters in many wars, and Americans have shown resilience in accepting the bitter truth of combat. But for the Pentagon to stonewall and obfuscate about such sacrifices is dishonorable.

Inaugural events all-business  
The (Baltimore) Sun

Republicans see no reason in this time of war to spend down efforts to exceed the \$40 million spent for President Bush's 2001 inauguration. On the contrary, they make no apologies. ...

George W. Bush certainly has something to celebrate. But does he need a gold-plated inaugural when families of reservists and National Guardsmen are serving in Iraq overnight every day?

Mr. Bush could have set a different tone this year by urging corporate and wealthy patrons to adopt a company of 130 soldiers or donate \$250,000 to a relief fund for military families.

To kick off his second term in 1985, President Reagan opted for a low-key inaugural, focusing more on free festivities for youths than high-end, black-tie affairs. Even President Clinton (who made the Lincoln bedroom available to some big fund-raisers) cut back on special-interest contributions to his second inaugural, albeit after serious questions had been raised about some donors in his first campaign. ...

Robert K. Gray, a co-chair of President Reagan's first inaugural, gave a candid assessment of their relevance when he said, "Inaugurals are big business," and the big money derives from selling television rights to the associated events. He made those comments in 1988, and sadly, the business has only gotten bigger.



## Sunday Horoscope

The energetic Aries moon is an enthusiastic cheerleader for projects big and small. Obstacles must be pummeled, but you've got the energy to do it. If you've waited this long to get your holiday cards out, you may as well wait one more day before mailing them — tomorrow, Mercury goes direct, so there will be fewer delivery mistakes.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(December 19).** Your dreams for the future are coming true this year — not without hard work, mind you. This month and next, the "work" is unlike any you've done before. Changing your belief system isn't easy, but it's effective and could mean money flow through your world in January and February. Flirtation turns to full romance this spring.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Beware — one size does not fit all. When you're aiming to win a ball, a sale or a stamp of approval, you need a different approach for each person involved. Be ready to adjust at the slightest indicator that it's not working.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Letter writing and e-mail are opportunity killers. There's an opportunity to communicate with someone creative, interesting and possibly famous. You also might date someone you once considered out of your league.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Understanding the opposite sex is your impossible preoccupation. You won't get any closer to the answer now, but it's fun to ask the questions. Physical activities bring a healthy release of the holiday stress. Get active.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22).

There's no reason to analyze, excel and strive until you're miserable. Laughter and satisfaction are life-lengthening. Make arrangements to have more of both! It's lucky to hang out with a Gemini or Aquarius.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Clever friends do not know it all, so don't let them influence you in the wrong direction. You're biding your time instead of making the next move in

a relationship — you don't want to appear eager or clingy. Risk being honest.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Character is what no one can take away from you. That's why you work so diligently at building yours. Forgiveness is featured, if it's something you have to say out loud but an internal process to repeat time and again.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're in the flow. Your concentration is impressive, and out of your efforts springs something magical. Praise for your brilliance is slow incoming, but don't you worry — you'll soon get enough to make you feel embarrassed.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Sure, it's the season of giving, but what about you? Giving a present from you to you is actually a blessing to your friends and family as well. It makes you feel more generous in regards to them.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Your sophistication can be intimidating. You should know that someone who looks up to you doesn't even know what you're talking about half of the time. A small kindness is a big deal to the one receiving it.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Draw, write, and compose. Anything you do pleases your toughest critic: you. Love it! You've just scratched the surface with a new sweetie. Tonight gives you a glimpse of how connected the two of you really are.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Push yourself to do the very thing you don't want to do. This is how you get the self-discipline to do even more! Your relaxation tonight is well earned! Let friends lead the way — you'll love what they come up with.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

There's pressure to come off looking cool to someone you're getting to know. Being seen with people who admire you will seem like the key. Really, though, all this person cares about is how you treat him or her.

Creators Syndicate

### Holiday Mathis



## Grandpa moves in, burdens family with his misbehavior

**DEAR ABBY:** When we married in 1998, my husband and I agreed that we would never put our parents into a nursing home as long as we were physically able to care for them. After our home was built, my father-in-law, "Papa Jake," moved in with us. Papa Jake is now 73, wheelchair-bound from a stroke, and an alcoholic.

He gets into his motorized wheelchair every day and heads out to the local bar, which is a mile away. When he returns, he's completely intoxicated, and sometimes falls.

Papa Jake is also belligerent toward me, and I don't want our 2-year-old son living in this environment. I didn't bargain on this when I married Grant.

Grant refuses to tell Papa Jake that if he can't live by the rules he needs to leave. I have reached my limit. I love Grant, but I can't live like this anymore. When is enough enough?

—Fed Up in New York  
DEAR FED UP: Papa Jake

appears to be a danger to himself. If you have already done so, inform his doctor about what's going on. It's extremely unfair of your husband to wimp

out and allow his father to treat you so disrespectfully — let alone drive his wheelchair drunk on the public roads.

The bargain you made with your spouse was that you would care for his father as long as you were physically able.

Well, since you are not physically able to prevent the hair spray and the gun, insist that the time has come for Jake to go, and do not back down.

**DEAR ABBY:** Before a game, my friend asked if I ever had a flame-shooter. Then he went into the bathroom and got a can of hair

spray and some matches. He told me to light the match and hold it. While I was holding the match, he sprayed the hair spray at me, and then my hand caught fire.

I wasn't burned, but it scared me. I'm not sure what to do. I want him to still be my friend, but I don't want him to get hurt. Should I let him keep doing it, or should I tell someone and have them tell him to stop?

—Worried in Kansas

**DEAR WORRIED:** Have you ever heard the saying that people who play with fire usually wind up getting burned? This applies to you and your friend.

## My accidental letter may have been accidentally sent to rental

**Dear Annie:** I am a 64 years old and have been pen pals with "Miranda" for the last 10 years. We never take longer than two weeks to respond to each letter, but since I wrote her four months ago, she hasn't written back, and I fear I know why.

I was just about to seal the envelope and mail my regular letter to her, and, to my great surprise, I grabbed another piece of paper and started to write a sexual fantasy letter. I don't know what got into me.

After several minutes, I stopped and said to myself, "OK, you get that out of your system. Now tear it up and toss it in the trash." This is the last recollection I have of that dreadful evening.

When months went by, I started thinking about the last time I wrote to her, and in a panic, I considered that I accidentally may have sent the dirty letter along with my regular one.

I am certain Miranda must be repulsed and confused. If I write her again, she might call the police, thinking I'm stalking or harassing her.

—Lewd In Behavior

**Dear Lewd:** We went into the world what would say about your "accident," but it is possible you are harboring feelings for Miranda that go beyond friendship? You

can't salvage this without taking a risk. Write her and ask why she hasn't responded — there could be another reason. If your fantasy letter is indeed the reason, plead temporary insanity. Beg for forgiveness.

### Dear Annie:

My family likes to get to church 10 minutes early so we can hear the "change of address" with two small kids, that doesn't always happen.

I find it appalling that so many people sit in the aisle seat of the pew when there is no one sitting in the middle. They refuse to give up their aisle seat or step out of the pew to let us pass. Maybe they don't know this is rude, so will you please educate them?

### —Where is Hoosier Hospitality?

**Dear Hoosier:** Of all the able-bodied people who select an aisle seat should have the consideration to slide down when others enter, or stand up and move out of the way, so late arrivals can pass easily. Unless there is a physical reason why you cannot move, there is no excuse to sit there and block the row.

### Dear Annie:

You recently printed a letter from a woman who was tired of receiving calls for her late husband, so she

All you would need is for one of those "flame-shooters" to explode in your faces, and there would be lifelong consequences. The next time your "friend" suggests playing that game, tell him I'd prefer to do something else.

### DEAR ABBY:

Early this year, I lost my precious father to cancer. Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary would have been in a few weeks, and we had started planning a big celebration. Now that Dad is gone, how can we acknowledge this day? It seems a shame to do nothing, since in her heart, Mom will always be "with" my father.

Is there a way to have a special acknowledgment of any kind?

### —Grieving But Grateful in Atlanta

**DEAR GRATEFUL:** While a large celebration of your parents' marriage would not be appropriate, I see no reason why family members and close friends shouldn't take your mother out on this emotionally loaded occasion. Certainly, she should not be alone — and I am sure she would welcome the emotional support.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Senders can e-mail Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pittco.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

I think I can help.

Looked up the number of the cemetery and gave it to one of the salesmen. She said, "The mental image of that man's reaction stopped the wave of grief I was feeling. I still smile when I think about him."

Let me tell you, this sort of thing can buy a lot of grief for the cemetery workers who handle these phone calls. One widow filled out a "change of address" card for her late husband with the cemetery's address. We've received bank statements, insurance notices, etc. I don't have no authority to open any of this.

I also will tell you that I've worked at the cemetery for over 20 years and have yet to see a man do this. Only widows like this "practical joke." I don't know if it's because men handle grief better or if they're just more sensible.

### —Quincy, Ill.

**Dear Quincy:** Maybe they're simply less imaginative. Actually, we do. The reason is that salespeople more often ask for "the man of the house." Nonetheless, we don't mean to encourage these practical jokes, and we thank you for letting us see the other side.

**My Mailbox** is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers Gazette. Please e-mail your questions to [annemitchell@aol.com](mailto:annemitchell@aol.com) or write Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Scallywag may have Gaelic roots

**Dear Editor:** I recently heard the word "scallywag" in a movie. Where does this word come from? —B.J., Champaign, Ill.

Dear B.J.: No one is entirely sure where "scallywag" and its early spelling variant "scalawag" came from.

Our earliest piece of printed evidence for it is from a 19th-century dictionary of Americanisms, where "scalawag" is listed as a Eastern term for a mean fellow.

A few years after the first sighting of "scalawag," it was used in The New York Tribune to describe scrawny, ill-nourished cattle.

It's possible this is the original

sense of the word, since this second piece of citation evidence for it wasn't glossed (that is, defined within the text), but without more evidence, we can't be sure.

We also can't be sure of the word's pedigree. The best guess etymologists have come up with is that it may be related to the Scots Gaelic word "sgallag," referring to a servant or farm-worker.

Unfortunately, there's no way to know how this Gaelic word was transformed into "scalawag" and deposited on American soil, so its etymology remains unknown.

This column was prepared by the staff of The New York Tribune's Gazette Dictionary. Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's, Springfield, Mass. 01102.

### Annie's Mailbox





# Neuroscientists testing mind over matter

BY RICK WEISS  
The Washington Post

Scott Hamel is a tough guy. In the gym, people stare in awe as he bench-presses more than 250 pounds. On the race track, he thinks nothing of taking his customized Corvette up toward the 200 mph mark.

Yet twice a week or so, Hamel puts on an adorable red bonnet decorated with white polka dots and fastens its strap under his chin. He does so to exercise what has become the most powerful muscle in his body: his mind. With the help of that bonnet — a high-tech piece of headgear that is wired to equipment developed by scientists in Albany, N.Y. — Hamel has learned how to move a cursor around on a computer screen just by thinking about it.

Hamel is one of four people whose techno-telepathic powers were highlighted in a scientific report that broke new ground in the rapidly advancing field of "brain-computer interfaces."

Neuroscientists and biomedical engineers in that specialty have become increasingly adept at making devices that translate people's thoughts into actions — a potential boon for paralyzed patients. But the newest and reputedly most promising of those systems have been dependent on wire electrodes implanted directly into the brain, presenting risks of infection or other complications.

By contrast, the cap that Hamel has been test-driving picks up on brain waves emanating from his skull. With it, he can send computer cursors on various trajectories and zap targets as they appear on a screen, using nothing more than a series of mental impulses.

"We have assumed you'd have to put electrodes in the brain to get this level of control," said lead researcher Jonathan Wolpaw, chief of the nervous system disorders lab at the state health department's Wadsworth

Center. "But noninvasive methods can be a lot better than people have given them credit for."

Wolpaw's "thinking cap" sports 64 sensors (the polka dots) that detect electroencephalographic (EEG) signals generated by neurons. With a software program analogous to those used in voice-recognition programs, which "learn" people's verbal quirks over time, people can gain control over a cursor's movement in two dimensions by modulating signal intensities in certain re-

gions of the brain, Wolpaw and co-worker Dennis McFarland reported in the online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Hamel, for example, makes a cursor move up by getting his brain to generate strong 24 cycles-per-second signals in two areas of the sensorimotor cortex, the region that normally controls limb movements.

Weakening that signal moves the cursor down. He pumps up a 12 cycles-per-second signal on

the right side of his brain and weakens the equivalent signal on the left to move the cursor right, and does the reverse to move it left. "It's like when a basketball player is in the zone," said Hamel, 43, who lives in Averill Park near Albany. "It's him and the ball and the basket, and there's no one else there. That's what it's like."

After a few months of 30-minute training sessions four or five times a week, he and the three other volunteers were able

to zap targets within a couple of seconds after they appeared at random spots on the screen.

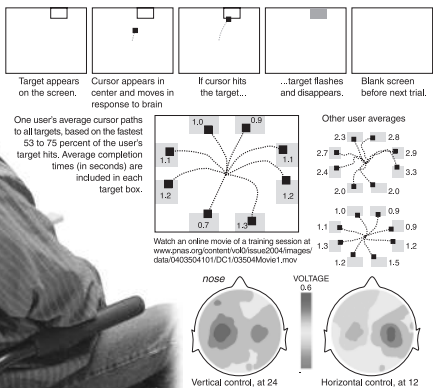
"EEG is fine if you only want to move a cursor," said Miguel Nicolelis, a Duke University researcher who has been implanting hundreds of electrodes into monkeys' brains, allowing them to operate robotic arms with their thoughts. "But to really restore motor function, to give mobility to a patient's own limbs, you need more control than that. You need to get into the brain."

Scott Hamel wears a cap that records electroencephalogram signals from the scalp over the brain's sensorimotor cortex, allowing his thoughts to move a cursor from the center of a computer screen to a target on the periphery.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL WREN, WADSWORTH CENTER, ALBANY, N.Y. STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH

## It's All in the Head

Scientists are developing "mind-reading" systems that allow people to control computers with their thoughts, and may someday help the disabled operate mechanical arms or legs.



# Medical director of Cleveland Clinic attacks Big Mac

BY CECI CONNOLLY  
The Washington Post

CLEVELAND — The Pizza Hut is shuttered, its neon sign collecting dust on the floor. But knocking down the Golden Arch has proved far more difficult for Toby Cosgrove, risk head of the Cleveland Clinic.

A heart surgeon who has cleaned out a career's worth of clogged arteries, Cosgrove didn't think Big Macs, supreme fries and inch-thick, six-cheese pizzas belonged in the lobby of a hospital renowned for its cardiac care. So he decreed the fast-food joints had to go.

Pizza Hut went quietly. But McDonald's, halfway through a 20-year lease, has refused to shut down a franchise that serves 12,000 doctors, nurses, janitors, secretaries, patients and visitors each week.

"Our menu is something we're all proud of," said Marty Ranft, a

McDonald's vice president. "We've got a great relationship with the Cleveland Clinic. We are not interested in closing" the restaurant.

"We have to set an example with the food we serve our patients and employees," said Cosgrove, a 63-year-old. "In a way, McDonald's was symbolic as much as anything else. It is not associated with heart-healthy food; neither is Pizza Hut."

But Cosgrove's crusade has been met with resistance from not just McDonald's executives, who say they are being singled out for a problem that goes beyond the occasional Happy Meal, but also from staff and visitors who resent what they consider to be a paternalistic attitude from bosses who can afford privacy, more healthful food.

"What they have in the cafeteria is not a lot better, and it's certainly not affordable," said Donna

Wilkinson, a post-operative nurse waiting in line for her McDonald's salad with chicken. The cafeteria salad bar, priced at \$4.64 a pound, "gets very expensive. They need to bring in something else that's more affordable."

On its sprawling urban campus, the clinic has a Subway sandwich shop, Au Bon Pain and Starbucks. Adjacent to the McDonald's is a cafeteria that features a large salad and fruit bar, a grill, a deli and hot entrees.

Nutritionists such as Montefiore Medical Center's Miriam Pappo said the Cleveland Clinic battle is akin to fights being waged in America's schools — and a handful of other hospitals — over candy, soda and fast-food sales.

She said it was "appropriate" for clinic officials to act as role models, yet Pappo sympathized with McDonald's argument that

no one forces people to eat there. "In a way, they are a scapegoat," Pappo said. "But in other ways, they are contributing for sure."

Of its 13,000 U.S. locations, about 30 McDonald's outlets are in hospitals, including children's hospitals in Los Angeles and Philadelphia. The New York City Health and Hospital Corp. does not intend to renew the McDonald's contract at its Elmhurst hospital and has not decided whether to keep the one in the Jacoby Medical Center in the Bronx, spokeswoman Kathleen McGrath said. The Harlem hospital closed its McDonald's earlier this year.

The Cleveland debate began two years ago when one of the clinic's most talented, most outspoken heart surgeons rose at a staff retreat to question how in good conscience they could tempt their patients with such unhealthy products.

"If Dr. Cosgrove wants to say

McDonald's is inconsistent" with the health goals of the hospital, "he needs to take a look at the vending machines with candy bars and salty snacks, the cafeteria with deep-fried chicken, baked pies and slabs of ribs," said William Whitman, director of U.S. media relations for McDonald's.

In the meantime, business is brisk at the Cleveland Clinic McDonald's.

Engineering supervisor John Moorer, who has high blood pressure, is loading up a plate at the cafeteria salad bar, but he also has opted for McDonald's or Pizza Hut. Near retirement age, Moorer doesn't want his boss telling him what to eat. "It's killing me, then that's my choice," he said.

McDonald's officials said they want to work with the clinic to develop more healthful menu options. But Cosgrove did not sound interested. He suggested a financial settlement is in the offing.

## YOUR MONEY

## Breaking down degree benefits

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command.

Bob Reynard, the local representative from the Navy College Office, was briefing the Family Readiness Group on the benefits of increasing your education. Navy College is basically a network of professional education services specialists in 62 major shore installations around the world.

"Isn't a college degree expensive?" I asked.

"Yes," Bob replied, "But it's less expensive than not earning your degree. That's the why we put opportunity cost as the first item on our action plan."

No one made a sound. Bob wrote a chart on the board.

Bob wrote several gals followed by more chatter. When he finished, he continued, "I see the same reaction whenever I show this chart. This chart says that on average, a four-year college graduate makes about 60 percent more each year than a high school graduate. Of course, your work history also can affect these numbers. These are just averages."

"Why is the annual difference in pay between different levels of education important?"

No one volunteered an answer.

"Does anybody know what the different college degrees are or what they cost?" Bob asked.

The silence continued. Bob went on, "Don't feel bad. Many potential students don't have a clue what the different degrees mean, how long it takes to finish them, or even what they cost. In general, an associate's degree requires 60 credit hours and a bachelor's degree requires twice as much, or 120 credit hours. The typical class is worth three credit hours."

"A full course load is five classes a semester or 15 credits per semester. Some schools, such as the University of Maryland, offer shortened, more intense semesters at their overseas military campuses. This can be a big help to people who deploy often because it makes it possible to take classes even though their schedule has so many restrictions. That means you can earn 30 credits a year going full time, allowing you to finish an associate's degree in two years and a bachelor's degree in four."

"Now, assuming a public college average cost of \$70 per credit hour for an associate's degree, and \$140 for a bachelor's degree, the average total cost for tuition is: \$4,200 for an associate's degree and \$16,800 for bachelor's

## Education earnings

National median earnings for each level of education for the year 2000.

Level of education	Men	Women
No HS	20,789	15,978
Some HS	25,095	17,919
HS Grad	34,303	24,970
Some College	40,337	28,697
Associate	41,952	31,071
Bachelor's	56,334	40,415
Master's	68,322	50,139
Professional	99,411	58,957
Doctorate	80,250	57,081

degree. Of course, this is a ballpark figure. Costs vary greatly depending on the school.

"If you go full time and live on campus, add at least another \$8,000 a year to cover books, a place to live, food and transportation costs — making your total bill \$20,200 for a two-year associate's degree and \$48,800 for a four-year bachelor's degree. For a more detailed list of costs associated with attending school go to <http://military.wiredscholar.com/pay/index.asp>.

"You earn an extra \$7,000 to \$16,000, according to your chart, after shelling out \$20,200 to \$50,000 for a degree."

"Actually it is worth it to earn your degree,"

Bob replied. "Did you know a high school dropout will earn only 1 million dollars over their next 40 years working full time every year?"

"Only!" Peggy Lopez said. "Yes. But someone with a high school diploma can expect to earn twice as much, or 2 million dollars, over the same time period."

Bob said. Bob continued, "Earn your bachelor's degree and you'll make three times what a high school dropout makes. Go crazy and earn a masters degree and you can plan to make over four times a high school dropout or over 4 million dollars over the same working lifetime. Of course different degrees, field of study, and other items come into play."

"Now that you have all the facts, doesn't it sound like a good choice to go back to school?"

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to Master Plan Inc., 520 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at [www.savvynav.com](http://www.savvynav.com). This article is written and the book is illustrated by Ralph Nelson. Neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisors. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability for or assumes no personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence of directly or indirectly using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is [finance@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:finance@stripes.osd.mil)



Caleb Sima, chief technology officer for SPI Dynamics, poses in the company's Atlanta office Tuesday. Sima is one of a select group of young techies who hit it big without an academic pedigree.

## Skipping college paid off for some teen techies, but not all

BY DAVE CARPENTER

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Caleb Sima still marvels at how angry the people around him got when he fled high school for a computer job during the high-tech boom, thumbing his nose at the traditional career path.

Skipping college, they warned, would be a foolish route to nowhere. "One day, I'm going to see you taking out my trash," his principal told him.

Ha. Boasting a six-figure salary as chief technology officer of an online security company, Sima is one of a select group of young techies who hit it big without an academic pedigree after technology and Internet-related businesses exploded in the late 1990s.

Just how many succeeded and how many failed in their quest is impossible to know. But a trail of anecdotal evidence on the Internet testifies to a few notable winners like the 24-year-old Sima, whose goal is to retire by 30. Only then might he attend college mainly to "have fun and relax a little bit."

"It infuriates me when I hear people say you have to have a college degree in order to make a certain salary," he said from At-

lanta-based SPI Dynamics, which he co-founded. "That is not true." Matching his diploma-less feat clearly has become more difficult since the tech bubble burst in 2001, however, and fewer seem inclined to try.

Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that the number of those

skipping college for the tech world has been declining steadily for three or more years. There were 40,000 16- to 19-year-olds working in computer-related occupations in 2000, 18,000 in 2003.

"While a small number did strike it rich by rushing into the work force, I would estimate that about the same percent

age struck it rich by buying lottery tickets," said

Steven Rotherberg, president and founder of Minneapolis-based CollegeRecruiter.com, a job site for students and recent graduates.

Bill Gates and Michael Dell became billionaires without having finished college. But they are now looked upon as flukes.

"It's so difficult to find an IT job now" without a degree, Rotherberg says. "Five years ago, if you weren't incarcerated and had a pulse, you had a pretty good chance."

The Information Technology Association of America, an Arling-

ton, Virginia-based trade group representing technology companies, estimates there are 10.5 million IT workers. But competition for the jobs is intense and qualifications have risen from the dot-coms' pioneer era just a few years ago, spokesman Bob Cohen said.

"Now employers really want to see people with a four-year degree, or at least a two-year degree and significant certification," he said. "Their expectations have gone up."

Sima was 16 when he dropped out of high school after his freshman year, bored with school and unable to fully pursue his love of computers. He earned a high school equivalency degree, got a job fixing PCs and gradually moved up to security administrator of an online bank before starting a company in 2000.

With all the experience he gained, there was never a regret about missing college. Even today, he often finds that job applicants with Ph.D.s in computer science don't have what it takes despite their lofty degrees.

"Book knowledge is helpful

someback in the IT world, but not near as much as real-world knowledge," he said.

But Sima doesn't think teen techies should ditch school without good reason.

"I'm not saying that someone went to a high-school test, but doesn't know what they want to do should do it," he said. "I think you have to somewhat realize what your goal is and be able to set yourself up for success."

# YOUR MONEY

## Balancing credit needs with score

Q: I am 20 and new to the world of credit. I just received a secured credit card and would like to know the fastest way to build my credit with this plastic. I have been told that the only way to build a good credit score is to spend 70 percent to 80 percent of my limit, then pay off

### Money Talk

only a portion of the bill each month. I've heard that if you pay your balance in full, you won't get very much improvement in your score. I'm anxious to build my credit so that I won't need my parents' help when I want to purchase a car and, later, a house. Can you help?

A: You're smart to want to build a good credit history. Having a good credit score — the three-digit number lenders use to help gauge your creditworthi-

*There's no need to pay interest on a credit card to build your score because the credit-scoring formula doesn't distinguish between balances you pay off each month and balances you carry.*

ness — will ensure that you get the credit you need in the future. You'll also pay less for loans because those with good scores get better interest rates and terms than those with poor or mediocre scores. Landlords, insurers and employers also may use credit information to make hiring decisions.

But the advice you've been given on how to build a good credit score is dead wrong.

Far from rewarding people who use 70 percent or more of their credit limits, the leading credit-scoring system penalizes those who max out their credit cards. If your goal is to improve your credit score, you typically don't want to use more than about 20 percent to 30 percent of your available limit.

That might be a pretty small amount because most secured cards give you a credit limit

that's equal to the deposit you make with the issuing bank, typically \$200 to \$1,000. But a little discipline now can pay off later. Make sure you keep track of your purchases, either in a check register you carry for that purpose or by checking your balance frequently online.

There's also no need to pay interest on a credit card to build your score. That's because the credit-scoring formula doesn't distinguish between balances you pay off each month and balances you carry.

What's factored into your score is the balance that your credit card company reports to the credit bureaus — and that is normally the balance that appeared on your most recent statement. If you charged \$200 last month, for example, that's the amount that will be reported to the bureaus, even

if you paid off the full \$200 the day your credit card bill arrived. Because your score doesn't depend on whether you carry a balance or not, you might as well be smart and pay it off in full every month to avoid interest charges.

By the way, you'll want to make sure your secured card reports to the three major credit bureaus so that you're building a history with all three.

Also, you'll want the secured card to convert to an unsecured card after 12 to 18 months of on-time payments because unsecured cards are better for your score. If your card doesn't offer that conversion feature, look for one that does.

A few other ways to build a good score quickly include:

■ Check your credit reports. Make sure there are no errors, including accounts that aren't yours.

■ Pay your bills on time, all the time. One late payment can quickly trash your score.

■ Apply for credit sparingly. You don't want to put in a bunch of applications all at once, although you probably do want to have more than one card. Consider applying for a gas or department store card now and another credit card in a year or so. Use the cards regularly but lightly and pay off the balances promptly.

■ Consider an installment loan. An auto loan or small personal loan that's repaid according to schedule can help boost your score.

■ If you continue to make good credit a priority and use the credit you have responsibly, you should be in fine shape for your future.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted via her Web site, <http://www.lizweston.com>, although she regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

## Homebuyers: Loan options are available

Bankrate.com

When it comes to choosing the length of a mortgage, consumers have more choices than ever. The most popular loans are still the 15- and 30-year fixed mortgages, but new buyers realize that they also can shop fixed-rate loans that span 10, 20, 25 or 40 years.

Here are some options of homebuyers are going for hybrid loans, which offer a few years of a fixed rate before switching over to an adjustable rate, says Doug Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist with the Mortgage Bankers Association.

■ 15-year fixed-rate mortgage: You'll get a lower rate than with a 30-year mortgage, but a stiffer monthly payment to go with it.

■ 30-year fixed-rate mortgage: The old reliable. It offers a higher interest rate than the 15-year mortgage, but sweetened with a lower payment.

■ 5-year fixed-rate mortgage: You have to shop to see if it makes any sense for you. Is the monthly debt that much lower to make it worth paying an extra 10 years of interest?

■ Nontraditional term fixed-rate mortgages: To get one of these, you might have to approach lenders individually to ask what they would charge for a loan term you need.

■ Hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages: The most popular types of hybrids give the borrower a fixed rate for one, three, five, seven or 10 years, then convert to an adjustable-rate mortgage.

■ Five- to seven-year ARMs are particularly good for first-time homebuyers and people who are planning on being in their homes for a short period.

■ Make-your-own mortgage: Allows homeowners to easily adjust the length of their mortgage by making additional principal payments.

## THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
	52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
Dow Jones Industrial	10,702.63	9,702.69	Dow Jones Industrial	10,702.64	+21.19	+0.20	+2.41	10,702.63	9,702.69
S&P 500	3,719.75	2,434.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,719.23	-26.38	-0.71	+2.15	3,719.75	2,434.46
NASDAQ Composite	1,551.11	1,118.26	Dow Jones Utilities	1,551.11	+2.25	+0.15	+2.15	1,551.11	1,118.26
NYSE Composite	1,417.44	1,118.26	NYSE Composite	1,417.44	-27.57	-1.95	+1.13	1,417.44	1,118.26
AMEX	2,117.27	1,752.82	AMEX	2,117.27	+0.88	+0.04	+1.37	2,117.27	1,752.82
NYSE MidCap	1,269.61	1,059.72	NASDAQ Composite	1,269.61	-2.51	-0.20	+2.47	1,269.61	1,059.72
NYSE SmallCap	625.98	546.29	S&P 500	625.98	-0.80	-0.13	+1.46	625.98	546.29
Russell 2000	646.61	516.97	Russell 2000	646.61	-0.38	-0.06	+1.32	646.61	516.97
NYSE VIX	11.86	10.75	VIX Volatility Index	11.86	-0.35	-2.98	+3.19	11.86	10.75

NYSE									
Most Active (\$1 or more)									
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol
Alcoa	82,091	3.75	+0.08	Smith Barney	24,819	32.78	-0.16	Symbol	24,819
Pfizer	51,884	26.48	+0.10	Symantec	11,140	25.13	+0.25	Symbol	11,140
United Therapeutics	38,647	7.10	-0.10	Veritas	7,912	27.99	-1.27	Veritas	7,912
Johnson & Johnson	36,847	71.30	+0.30	Veritas	7,912	27.99	-1.27	Veritas	7,912
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Johnson & Johnson	36,847	71.30	+0.30	Veritas	7,912	27.99	-1.27	Veritas	7,912
Johnson & Johnson	36,847	71.30	+0.30	Veritas	7,912	27.99	-1.27	Veritas	7,912
Johnson & Johnson	36,847	71.30	+0.30	Veritas	7,912	27.99	-1.27	Veritas	7,912

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Dec. 19)	102.90
South Korean won (Dec. 17)	1,039.00
Euro costs (Dec. 17)	\$1.9255
Dollar costs (Dec. 17)	\$0.7270
British pound (Dec. 17)	\$2.00
Commercial rates	
Saleyan (rial)	\$1.979
British pound	\$1.9399
Swiss franc	\$1.5877
Denmark (kroner)	\$5.887
Egypt (pound)	\$1.3249/0.7545
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.755
Malaysia (ringgit)	19.20
Iceland (krona)	61.73
Great Britain (pound)	1.924
Norway (kroner)	4.784
Sweden (krona)	6.1022
Philippines (peso)	1.4653
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	3.7496
Singapore (dollar)	1.4653
South Korea (won)	1056.40
Switzerland (franc)	1.4653
Thailand (baht)	1.4653
Turkey (lira)	1,406,129.00

(Military exchange rates are those shown to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interest rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currency rates to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc	
Gold	\$436.90
Silver	\$6.00
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	5.25
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20
3-month bill	2.20

## Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

## Setting financial goals

By NANCY DUNNAN

The federal government has just published a free package of publications that will help you organize your finances, plan for the future, protect your credit record, set up a budget, manage your spending and avoid ID theft.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50,000" and a weekly column for theonlineinvestor.com.

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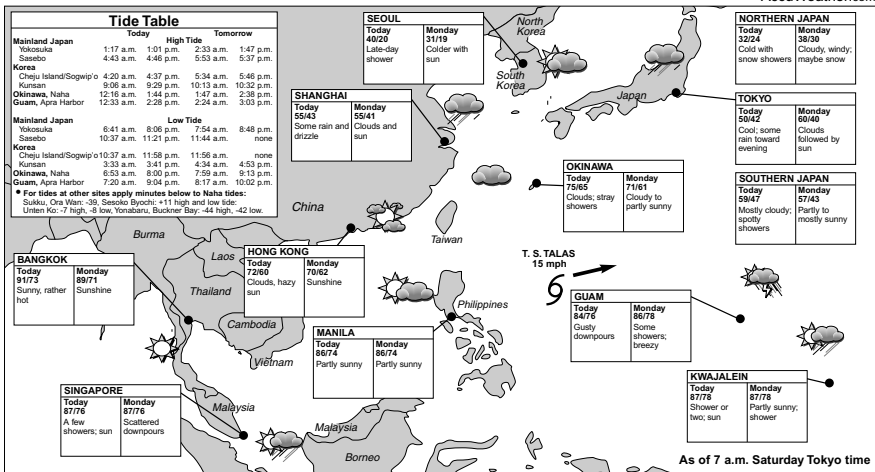
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# The Pacific Forecast

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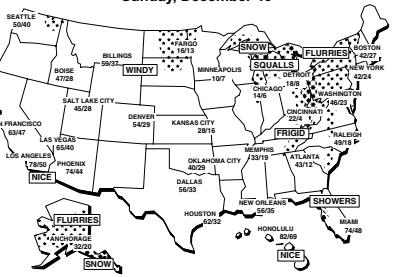
## Extended Forecasts

<b>TOKYO</b> Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 48, low 35. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, high 45, low 34.	<b>KADENA</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 71, low 57. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 73, low 59.	<b>SEUL</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 35, low 15. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, high 33, low 19.	<b>MANILA</b> Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 72. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 74.	<b>HAGATNA</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 76. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 76.
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## Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	48/28	Los Angeles	79/48
Amarillo	59/29	Little Rock	57/37
Anchorage	34/31	Louisville	49/33
Ashville	54/26	Miami	72/62
Baltimore	50/23	Milwaukee	33/26
Birmingham	57/36	Nashville	53/31
Bismarck	54/27	New York	46/28
Boise	42/28	Omaha	45/30
Boston	46/20	Orlando	71/54
Brownsville	66/50	Philadelphia	50/26
Buffalo	28/19	Phoenix	73/48
Burlington	34/2	Pittsburgh	36/25
Charleston, SC	62/40	Portland, OR	50/40
Charlotte	56/32	Portland, ME	43/9
Cleveland	31/26	Salt Lake City	42/26
Columbus, OH	37/26	St. Louis	43/36
Duluth	25/10	San Antonio	64/40
El Paso	52/28	San Diego	79/50
Hartford	48/14	San Juan	86/74
Helena	47/29	Tampa	70/54
Indianapolis	39/26	Tulsa	56/37
Jacksonville	63/45	Washington	52/32
Kansas City	48/35	Wichita	56/32

## Sunday, December 19



## U.S. Extended Forecast

The coldest air of the season will plunge southward into the Midwest and Ohio Valley Sunday as an area of high pressure moves into the region. The northerly wind flowing around this high pressure will trigger lake-enhanced snow showers on the downwind side of the Great Lakes. A cold front will border the leading edge of this frigid air and bring a bit of snow to western areas of the Northeast and the Appalachians. Some snow will also fall along Maine and coastal New England as a storm system passes to the east of the region. Besides a few showers over southern Florida and flurries over the northern Rockies, dry weather will dominate the rest of the nation.

## Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/73	Iwakuni	57/46	Sasebo NB	58/47	Acapulco	89/72
Beijing	36/19	Kadena AB	75/65	Sapporo	32/24	Athens	53/41
Camp Casey	43/22	Kunsan AB	49/32	Seoul	40/20	Auckland	58/47
Christchurch	54/39	Kwajalein	87/78	Shanghai	55/43	Baghdad	56/36
Diego Garcia	84/76	Manila	86/74	Singapore	87/76	Barbados	86/70
Hagatna	84/76	Masawa AB	37/30	Sydney	92/69	Barcelona	59/45
Hanoi	78/63	Osan	44/24	Taegu	53/33	Berlin	28/20
Hong Kong	72/60	Perth	49/71	Taipei	76/61	Bermuda	74/64
Honolulu	82/69	Pusan	56/38	Tokyo	50/42	Brussels	34/23

## Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Buenos Aires	82/63	Kiev	38/23	New Delhi	83/49	Bangkok	91/73
Cairo	67/45	Kuwait	60/39	Oslo	25/19	Beijing	36/19
Cancun	73/55	London	37/28	Paris	35/24	Camp Casey	43/22
Cape Town	81/65	Madrid	54/40	Rio de Janeiro	78/66	Christchurch	54/39
Geneva	38/23	Mexico City	59/37	Rome	51/40	Diego Garcia	84/76
Honolulu	59/46	Montreal	31/4	St. Petersburg	32/20	Hagatna	84/76
Johannesburg	59/41	Moscow	84/69	Stockholm	28/20	Hanoi	78/63
						Hong Kong	72/60
						Honolulu	82/69



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## JAPAN TV (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

## SUN, DEC. 19

**Morning**  
10:00 "Shogun" Lesson/NHK Trophy  
"Shogun" Tournament (3)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 "Shogun" Lesson/NHK Trophy  
"Shogun" Tournament (3)

1:00 Japan Equestrian Championships  
(3)

4:00 Japan Open Okinawa Open Golf:  
Final Round (10)

5:00 Japan Karate Championships (1)

**Evening**  
7:00 News (1)

8:55 PGA Tour: 2004 Scandinavian  
Masters Highlights (42)

9:00 Classical Music: Nhk Symphony  
Orchestra - Haydn's Symphony  
No. 86, Op. 86 in D  
Major/Prokofiev's Classical Sym-  
phony, Op. 25 (3)

9:00 U.S. Movie (1997): Face/Off  
(54:10)

10:00 Classical Music: 2004 Nhk  
Music Festival Highlights -  
Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 -  
Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra  
(conductor: Mariss Jansons/Beethoven's 7th Symphony

No. 9 "Coral" - Czech Philhar-  
monic Orchestra (conductor:  
Zdenek Macal) (2)

11:30 Friends (42)

12:45 Japan College Football: The  
58th Maichik-Koshien Bowl  
Rikyoku Ueno vs. Hoshi Ueno (1)

12:55 "Shogun" Lesson/NHK Trophy  
"Shogun" Tournament (3)

1:00 Thunderbirds (1x)

1:25 Soccer: Serie A - Fiorentina vs.  
Ciechio (8)

**Afternoon**  
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation  
(2)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1985): Police Acad-  
emy 2: First Assignment (2:00:12)

**Evening**  
7:00 News (1)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 Nikita (42)

**TUE, DEC. 21**

**Afternoon**  
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation  
(2)

## WOWW

## SUN, DEC. 19

**Morning**  
9:30 British-French Movie (2002): Anna's Dream  
(1:27)

11:00 U.S. Movie (2003): The Life  
of Pi (2:15)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 "Shogun" Lesson/NHK Trophy  
"Shogun" Tournament (3)

1:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Full Frontal  
(2)

2:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Confession of  
a Dangerous Mind (1:35)

**Evening**  
6:10 U.S. Movie (2002): Far from Heaven  
(1:20)

8:00 P. Pro Boxing: IBF Junior World  
Wright Championship - Kostya  
Tsu vs. Sharmila Mitchell (1)

2:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Croatia  
vs. Spain (2)

**MON, DEC. 20**

**Morning**  
6:10 Triathlon World Cup  
8:10 World News  
9:10 What's on Japan (r)

10:10 BS Documentary: Evolving AIDS  
Virus (r)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 CNN News  
12:30 Weekly NHL  
1:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #1

1:30 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #2

1:50 U.S. Games (r)

2:00 CNN News  
2:30 Weekly NHL  
3:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #4

3:30 CNN News  
3:50 U.S. Games (r)

4:00 PGA Golf  
5:40 Baseball Mundial

## MON, DEC. 20

**Morning**  
6:10 Triathlon World Cup  
8:10 World News  
9:10 What's on Japan (r)

10:10 BS Documentary: Evolving AIDS  
Virus (r)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 CNN News  
12:30 Weekly NHL  
1:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #1

1:30 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #2

1:50 U.S. Games (r)

2:00 CNN News  
2:30 Weekly NHL  
3:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #4

3:30 CNN News  
3:50 U.S. Games (r)

4:00 PGA Golf  
5:40 Baseball Mundial

**TUE, DEC. 21**

**Morning**  
6:10 Triathlon World Cup  
8:10 World News  
9:10 What's on Japan (r)

10:10 BS Documentary: Evolving AIDS  
Virus (r)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 CNN News  
12:30 Weekly NHL  
1:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #1

1:30 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #2

1:50 U.S. Games (r)

## JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

## SUN, DEC. 19

**Morning**  
7:00 Nhk News  
7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
(2:10)

**MON, DEC. 20**

**Morning**  
7:00 Nhk News  
7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
(2:10)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 CNN News  
12:30 Weekly NHL  
1:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #1

## MON, DEC. 20

**Morning**  
7:00 Nhk News  
7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
(2:10)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 CNN News  
12:30 Weekly NHL  
1:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #1

1:30 Emperor's Cup Soccer Champion-  
ship: Quarterfinal #2

1:50 U.S. Games (r)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1986): Police Acad-  
emy 3: Back in Training (2:00:12)

**Evening**  
7:00 Nhk News (1)

7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
(2:10)

**WED, DEC. 22**

**Afternoon**  
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation  
(2)

1:30 U.S. Movie (2000): Santa Who?  
(1:50:12)

**Evening**  
7:00 Nhk News (1)

7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
(2:10)

**THU, DEC. 23**

**Morning**  
7:00 Nhk News (1)

7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
(2:10)

**Afternoon**  
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation  
(2)

1:30 U.S. Movie (2000): Santa Who?  
(1:50:12)

**Evening**  
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7:30 British-French Movie (1968): Mayerling  
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## MTV

## SUN, DEC. 19

**Morning**  
6:00 Waka Uki  
6:30 The Monogues Special: Clever  
Girl Kiyoko

6:50 The Video: Ja Rule  
7:00 Rock On  
7:10 The Video: Ja Rule  
7:20 Rock On  
7:30 The Video: Ja Rule

**Afternoon**  
12:00 Best of MTV Artist Special: Avril  
Lavigne  
12:30 Making the Video: Ja Rule  
1:00 Catch SUNDAY

1:30 World Chart Express Supported  
vs. Real World

6:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Fly  
11:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 Artist  
Special

1:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Fly  
1:30 Live: The Roots  
1:40 The Roots (Off the Air for a maintenance be-  
tween 3-5 a.m.)

**MON, DEC. 20**

**Morning**  
6:00 Waka Uki  
6:30 The Monogues Special: Clever  
Girl Kiyoko

6:50 The Video: Ja Rule  
7:00 Rock On  
7:10 The Video: Ja Rule  
7:20 Rock On  
7:30 The Video: Ja Rule

**Afternoon**  
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inite leave of absence.



# Miller fourth in WC super-G

The Associated Press

VAL GARDENA, Italy — Bode Miller finished fourth in a World Cup super giant slalom Friday in which Michael Walchhofer led an Austrian sweep.

## Sports briefs

Miller has won six of 11 races this season and holds a commanding lead in the overall standings. Walchhofer captured a World Cup super-G for the first time, covering the 1.5-mile course in 1 minute, 31.17 seconds. Defending overall champion Hermann Maier was second, 0.12 seconds behind, and Benjamin Raich finished third, 0.47 seconds back. Miller was 0.86 seconds off Walchhofer's pace.

This was the first speed event this season in which Maier has finished ahead of Miller, shaving 30 points off the American's overall lead. Miller leads Maier 780-419.

Two-time defending champion Antoine Deneriaz of France finished 15th.

Walchhofer was second in the downhill on this course in each of the past three seasons. This was the third World Cup victory of his career following a



AP

**Bode Miller, has won six of 11 races and leads the overall World Cup standings by 361 points.**

combined in Kitzbuehel during the 2002-03 season and a downhill in Lake Louise, Alberta.

## Monty rents himself out for Euro captaincy

LONDON — Colin Montgomerie is no longer interested in becoming Europe's Ryder Cup captain.

Montgomerie, who made the winning putt in Europe's victory over the United States in September at Oakland Hills, said Friday he's withdrawing as a candidate to captain the team in 2006.

The 41-year-old Scot said he's been told by "everybody" that he should keep playing.

"After hearing it I possibly have to agree," he said. "I think I can play in Ireland and possibly the next couple."

# NHL union discredits owners' financial claims

By IRA DODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL players' association is taking its case public.

Amused and dismayed by financial figures they call "absolutely ridiculous," NHLPA officials sought to discredit projections that the NHL made when it rejected the union's proposal for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The NHL lockout reached its 93rd day Friday and has wiped out 430 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star Game.

Negotiations broke off Tuesday after the NHL rejected a players' proposal that featured a 24-percent salary rollback. The league handed back a salary cap-structured counteroffer that also was turned down during the 3½-hour meeting in Toronto.

"They based their reaction to our significant proposal by saying they'd be right back where they were. Well, that's a bunch of hogwash," union head Bob Goodenow said. "They mixed up and died up statistics in a blender and came out with what I think are absolutely ridiculous forecasts."

No new negotiations are scheduled, leaving the NHL perilously close to becoming the first North American sports league to lose a season to a labor dispute.

"It is a lockout that's going to extend for an awful long time if the parties aren't able to try to work together," Goodenow said.

Although no drop-dead date has been set, there figures to be about a month of negotiating time left to save the season. The lockout during the 1994-95 season ended on Jan. 11 and allowed for a 48-game regular season to be played.

The players' association already believed that the NHL's financial figures were off when they saw them in the counterproposal. After a few days of crunching numbers, the union made sure to let everyone know just how wrong it feels the amounts are.

Using a three-year projection based on league numbers, the NHLPA said its offer would produce a \$275.5 million profit for teams as opposed to a \$58.5 million loss, as stated by the NHL.

"They were desperate to mischaracterize things and try to throw a high, hard one past a lot of people," Goodenow said. "That's why we've taken the time to go back and restate reality."

The NHL countered that projected league revenues would go up 3 percent annually over the next three seasons while player costs would rise by an average of 12.1 percent.

By its calculations, the league figured to lose \$71.7 million in the 2004-05 season, \$183.9 million the following season, and \$312.9 in the third year.

Goodenow said the league took its own forecast of 2004-05 revenues and increased that amount by only 3 percent, a figure far below the NHL's self-reported number of 9.4 — the amount of average growth the NHL said it had the past 10 years.

"We stand behind the 3-percent average annual growth projection we used for our modeling, particularly for a business that will be coming out of an extended shutdown," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said Thursday.

"We do not believe the union's public negotiation with the media warrants any further comment."

In plugging those numbers in, the NHLPA claimed its latest proposal would generate a profit of \$58 million in the 2004-05 season, and \$91.5 million and \$126 million in subsequent years.

"We are not saying that revenues will grow by 9.4 percent or player costs by 12.1 percent in the next few years," Goodenow said. "We believe the numbers from the last five-year period have an average far greater relevance. According to the league's own numbers, over the last five years on a per team basis revenues have on average increased 7.8 percent while player costs have increased an average of 7.3 percent."

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# Kicks' Vinatieri all but automatic

New England kicker has won two Super Bowls, made 21 straight field goal attempts

By HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The only way to stop Adam Vinatieri from making field goals might be to keep him from kicking them.

And that approach doesn't work either because the New England Patriots score touchdowns instead.

The kicker whose field goals won two Super Bowls has failed just once in 29 attempts this season and that came from 47 yards. He hasn't tried one in the last two games, but the Patriots won both — 42-15 in Cleveland and 35-28 against Cincinnati.

"It's nice to be on the field as often as possible," Vinatieri said Thursday. "And if they're all extra points, I'm happy with that, as long as we're winning."

It's just not as exciting as when the cool Vinatieri lines up — in bright sun or snow-filled gloom, under a roof or a cloudless sky — and drives field goals between the uprights in the big games.

"He's a guy that we count on for a lot of stuff no matter what the temperature is, what the field condition is," offensive tackle Matt Light said.

"It's ridiculous the stuff this guy kicks in and he's unfazed by it."

In the AFC divisional playoffs against the Oakland Raiders on Jan. 19, 2002, Vinatieri kicked a



New England Patriots' Adam Vinatieri, right, celebrates his game-winning field goal with teammates Ken Walter (13) and Christian Fauria (98) in the final seconds of Super Bowl XXXVIII at Reliant Stadium in Houston, on this Feb. 1, 2004. The Patriots beat the Panthers 32-29. Vinatieri also made the game-winning kick in Super Bowl XXXVI.

45-yard field goal through falling flakes to force overtime and a 23-yarder to win 16-13. Two weeks later, in the Superdome in New Orleans, his 48-yarder on the last play gave the Patriots a

20-17 Super Bowl victory over the St. Louis Rams.

In last season's playoffs, he went 5-for-5 in a 24-14 victory over Indianapolis, then broke a tie against Tennessee with 4:06

left with a 46-yarder that gave the Patriots a 17-14 win. In the Super Bowl, his 41-yard kick with 4 seconds left gave New England a 32-29 victory over Carolina.

"He's come up with some dandies," Light said. "It doesn't matter really where we are on the field. If they're sending him out there, I feel confident."

Now the nine-year veteran, whose kickoffs also have improved, feels much better physically after dealing with back problems last season when he went 25-for-34 and 7-for-10 in the post-season.

The difference "is night and day," he said. "The body feels great and I've been having a fairly decent year because of it."

How about fairly amazing? Vinatieri made his first seven field-goal attempts before missing on his second kick of the game on Oct. 19 in a 24-10 victory over Miami, where New England plays on Monday night.

Since then, he's made 21 straight — four short of the team record he set in 1996-97 — although none have been game-winners because the Patriots (12-1) haven't been so dominant. He hasn't missed a field goal since he went 3-for-3 on a rainy Oct. 28 in a 23-10 win over Baltimore but he still leads the NFL in scoring.

"He has made some tough kicks," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "The Baltimore

game was a pretty tough kicking situation. We have seen him make them in the past."

He could start making them again Monday night if the offense stalls. One of them actually might win a game, a feat he's accomplished nine times the past three seasons. Four of them came in the Patriots' six playoff games.

"The Dolphins play real good defense, so you never know," Vinatieri said. "You might be on the field kicking a lot of field goals. So you always have to be prepared. You never know when your time will be called."

Mike Vanderjagt of Indianapolis went 37-for-37 last season, the best single-season performance in NFL history. Olindo Mare, who will kick for Miami on Monday night, holds the league record of 39 total field goals in a season.

Vinatieri needs a big finish to challenge that.

"He's one of the best kickers in the league," Patriots tight end Christian Fauria said. "Our ideal is not to have him out there that much anyway. We like to score touchdowns."

But if the Patriots fall short, Vinatieri probably won't.

"The confidence level has been pretty good," he said. "Some years you get five or six game-winners and other times you go a whole year without maybe any. But we still have three games left and the postseason."

## William & Mary quarterback Campbell wins Payton Award

The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — William & Mary quarterback Lang Campbell won the Walter Payton Award on Thursday night as the top offensive player in Division I-AA.

Campbell received 40 first-place votes and 315 points from a panel of Division I-AA sports information directors and media.

Sam Houston State quarterback Dustin Long finished second with 17 first-place votes and 185 points. Appalachian State wide receiver DeVon Fowles finished third with eight first-place votes and 151 points.

Campbell, the Atlantic 10 offensive player of the year, threw for 3,037 yards and 21 touchdowns with just one interception, during the regular season. He also ran for 201 yards and seven touchdowns.

He led William & Mary to a share of the Atlantic 10 title with a 9-2 regular season record, but lost to James Madison in the semifinals of the Division I-AA tournament.

James Madison plays Montana for the Division I-AA championship Friday in Chattanooga.

Meanwhile, Southern Illinois coach Jerry Kill won the Eddie Robinson Award as the I-AA coach of the year. In his fourth season, Kill led the Salukis to a 10-2 record and a Gateway Conference championship, posting a

### College football briefs

perfect 7-0 league mark, Cal Poly linebacker Jordan Beck won the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in I-AA. The 6-foot-2, 231-pound senior finished the season with 135 tackles, 18.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks and three forced fumbles.

### Indiana hires Miami of Ohio's Hoopner as head coach

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Miami of Ohio's Terry Hoopner was hired as Indiana's football coach Friday and vowed to take the Hoosiers to the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1968.

Hoopner, 48-23 in six seasons at Miami, takes over a team with 10 straight losing seasons.

"Can I win here? There is no doubt about it," Hoopner said. "We're going to build a championship football team here. That is no joke."

Indiana fired Gerry DiNardo after ending a 3-8 season with a 63-24 loss to rival Purdue. DiNardo went 8-27 in three years.

School president Adam Herbert said he expected Hoopner to "reinvigorate" a football program that's also had a steep decline in attendance recently.

Indiana hasn't had a winning season since going 6-5 in 1994, and crowds averaged about 28,500 this season in 52,000-seat



William & Mary quarterback Lang Campbell, who was recognized as the top offensive player in Division I-AA on Thursday night, threw for 3,037 yards and 21 touchdowns, with just one interception, during the regular season. He also ran for 201 yards and seven touchdowns.

Memorial Stadium — down from about 35,000 the year before.

Hoopner, 57, grew up in the northeastern Indiana town of Woodburn and coached high school football in Indiana before starting his college coaching career as defensive coordinator at Franklin College, his alma mater. He was an assistant at Miami of Ohio for 13 years before becoming head coach in 1999. His 2003 team, led by current Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roeth-

lisberger, went 13-1 and was ranked 10th in the final Associated Press poll.

Miami went 8-4 this year. Hoopner will coach the RedHawks against Iowa State in the Independence Bowl on Dec. 28.

### UCLA's Dorell gets two-year contract extension

LOS ANGELES — Second-year UCLA coach Ken Dorell's contract was extended for two years Friday, putting him under contract with the school through the 2010 season.

The Bruins (6-5) will face Wyoming (6-5) in the Las Vegas Bowl on Thursday. They are 12-12 in two years under Dorell, whose original contract was for six years.

Dorell declined the offer of a one-year rollover last January following a 6-7 season. Dorell succeeded Bob Toledo, who was fired after the 2002 season.

"The progress the program has made under Karl's leadership is clearly evident," athletic director Dan Guerrero said in a statement issued by the school. "He has built a solid foundation."

### No charges filed against Cal receiver Gray

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Police Department decided to drop weapons charges against California receiver Devin Gray, who was arrested last week after a fight outside a nightclub.

"We're pleased that when the

police looked further into the incident, they chose to discharge David's case," Golden Bears coach Jeff Tedford said Thursday. "From what we knew of the circumstances, that's the outcome we always had expected. Hopefully now, David and the team can put this unpleasant experience behind us."

Tedford said Gray has rejoined the team and would return to practice Friday. The fourth-ranked Bears play Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 30.

"I'm glad to be back with the team," Gray said. "I was never overly concerned because I knew the facts would eventually come out."

Gray has seen limited playing time for Cal. Hobbled by a foot injury, he played only one game this season, making one catch for 24 yards against Stanford.

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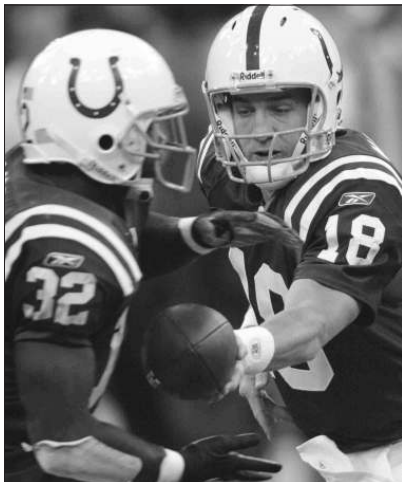


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Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning is three short of breaking Dan Marino's season record of 48 touchdown passes, but Manning has seen a change in the defenses he's throwing against. Last week, Texas held him to two TD passes by overguarding against the pass and forcing the run. Indianapolis won anyway. He expects more of a defensive mix when the Colts host Baltimore on Sunday. "I think some defensive coordinators feel we have to throw the ball," Manning said. "But I'll bore you to death by checking to the run. We'll do whatever it takes to win."

AP



# Manning, Colts face a big test

## Playoff-hungry Ravens' defense presents QB's biggest challenge

By MICHAEL MAROT  
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning can sense the changes. After throwing 46 touchdown passes, he sees defenses finally trying to mix it up with the Indianapolis Colts.

Last week against Houston, Manning threw two TDs in the first 12 minutes and didn't throw another all day as the Texans dared them to win on the ground.

On Sunday, Manning expects to face more complicated maneuvers from the Baltimore Ravens. "I think some defensive coordinators feel we have to throw the ball," said Manning, last year's co-MVP. "But I'll bore you to death by checking to the run. We'll do whatever it takes to win."

The Colts (10-3) have proven their mettle by steamrolling defenses with mind-boggling precision and record-breaking numbers all season. They're hoping Sunday night is no different.

■ Manning needs three TD passes to break Dan Marino's 20-year-old season record of 48.

■ Reggie Wayne, Brandon Stokley and Marvin Harrison are closing in on 1,000-yard seasons and could become the first receiving trio to achieve that when the 1980 San Diego Chargers.

■ Stokley, who left Baltimore for the Colts, needs one more TD reception to give the Colts three receivers with 10 TD catches, which would be the first time that's happened in the NFL.

■ Edgerrin James leads the league in yards rushing, and if he wins his third rushing title, the four-year gap since his last one in 2000 would be the longest since the merger in 1970.

■ The offense also remains on pace to break Minnesota's scoring record (556 points), even after enduring its lowest output of the season (23) at Houston.

Baltimore (8-5) knows it will take more than its usually staunch effort to slow Indianapolis.

"They're in sync in a way that only the great offenses can be," Ravens coach Brian Billick said. "They're fully dimensional, and they've taken it to another level."

Manning's quest for the touchdown record, football's version of

the home-run mark, has overshadowed the other accomplishments, and now he has a perfect stage to rewrite history.

The game will be on national television, putting Manning against one of the league's top defenses and the franchise that brought football back to Baltimore after the Colts left in 1984.

Could the Colts ask for anything more?

"We would like it to go away as soon as possible," coach Tony Dungy said of Manning's record chase. "I was hoping we could break it two weeks ago, so we could put it behind us. But it's something we're going to have to deal with until it does get broken."

On paper, it's a classic matchup between a high-scoring offense and an aggressive defense.

For the Ravens, though, there's the focus on making the playoffs.

In a race for one of the AFC's two wild-card spots, they cannot afford another loss. The Ravens trail the New York Jets (9-4) by one game, are tied with Denver and lead Buffalo (7-6) and Jacksonville (7-6) by just one game.

To keep pace, they must hold Manning and Co. in check.

"If you go into it trying to stop the record, then you're going into the game with the wrong purpose," linebacker Ray Lewis said. "Our purpose is to win a football game."

The Ravens are the biggest obstacle Indianapolis has faced this year. Of the 10 teams the Colts have played, only Jacksonville and New England rank among the top 15 in total defense. Baltimore is sixth overall, seventh against the pass, and has allowed just 10 TD throws and one touchdown longer than 20 yards.

Manning's preparation this week included film sessions watching his brother, Eli, get mauled by the Ravens and he thinks he knows what to expect.

"You watch, this will be a grind for us Sunday," Manning said. "They've got great players and multiple schemes. They gave a rookie quarterback a lot of looks last week, and they're going to give me a lot of looks."

The last time the teams played in 2002, Manning was 30-for-40 for 284 yards with one TD and one interception.

Those are minimal numbers compared to what Manning has achieved this season. But against a defense that has held him out of Trent Green, Donovan McNabb and Tom Brady this year, Manning believes the Ravens will test him, too.

"I'm telling you, it feels like it's getting harder," he said. "It was hard to throw two against Houston, and Baltimore's given up a whopping 10 all season. So when we get a chance to put it in the end zone, we've got to stick it in there."

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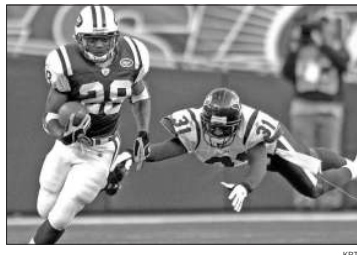
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New York Jets running back Curtis Martin (28) ranks second in the AFC in rushing with 1,377 yards. He has also scored 12 touchdowns.

## Jets tagged with label of bullying weaklings

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

If the New York Jets were in the NFC, they probably would have clinched a playoff berth.

Instead, they still have a fight on their hands as they host Seattle, which has won two fewer games, but leads the NFC West.

As befuddling the difference between the conferences, the Jets are favored by six points even though Chad Pennington is playing with an injured throwing shoulder. It showed last week in Pittsburgh, where he threw three interceptions in what might have been his worst game since he became a starter.

The Jets are 9-4 and lead the wild-card chase in the AFC. But they've lost to the best teams they've played: New England, Baltimore and Pittsburgh, as well as to struggling Buffalo.

"Against good teams we don't do anything," running back LaMont Jordan said. "People around here might not like me saying that, but that's just the truth. Against good teams, against winning teams, against good defenses we haven't done a thing."

Is Seattle good? Its defense is certainly spotty, although Michael Boulware intercepted a pass in the end zone to help seal a 27-23 victory at Minnesota last week. The Seahawks got lucky on that one — the pass was thrown by wide receiver Randy Moss, not quarterback Daunte Culpepper.

They could get lucky again. Giants Stadium is usually windy this time of year, which could accentuate Pennington's shoddy problems.

On conference difference ...

**JETS, 24-20**  
**Baltimore (plus 5)** at Indianapolis: Tony Dungy wants Peyton Manning to get the TD pass record out of the way so the Colts can concentrate on the Ravens. ... **COLTS, 27-23**.

**Carolina (plus 3½)** at Atlanta (Saturday): The Panthers, have five straight to put themselves in position for an NFC wild-card spot. They are 1-8 at the Georgia Dome, but streaks end. ... **PANTHERS, 20-19**.

**New England (minus 9½)** at

### NFL picks

**Miami (Monday):** Only two of the Dolphins' 11 losses are by more than 10 points, one of them by 14 in Foxboro. Make it three. ... **PATRIOTS, 20-7**.

**Minnesota (minus 3)** at Detroit: The only thing predictable about the Vikings is that they lose late in the season. ... **LIONS, 22-20**.

**Jacksonville (plus 3½)** at Green Bay: "We should feel good about this win, but we're not good enough to feel that good," Brett Favre said after the Packers edged Detroit last week. They're good enough for Jacksonville, though. ... **PACKERS, 16-14**.

**Pittsburgh (minus 10)** at New York Giants (Saturday): The fans are all over the Giants for trading draft picks for Eli when Ben was available. ... **STEELERS, 27-2**.

**Dallas (plus 12½)** at Philadelphia: The Eagles clinch home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs. ... **EAGLES, 33-17**.

**San Diego (minus 10)** at Cleveland: The streak goes on. ... **CHARGERS, 31-10**.

**Buffalo (minus 15)** at Cincinnati: Jon Kitna is a more than capable stand-in for Carson Palmer. But the Bills are hot and can run. ... **BILLS, 31-23**.

**St. Louis (minus 3)** at Arizona: Chris Chandler won't throw six interceptions, but ... **CARDINALS, 20-17**.

**Washington (minus 4)** at San Francisco: The Redskins aren't the Cardinals. ... **REDSKINS, 20-3**.

**New Orleans (plus 1)** at Kansas City: With the Chiefs' offense, one Jake Plummer mistake could kill Denver's playoff hopes. He'll make at least two. ... **CHIEFS, 27-14**.

**New Orleans (plus 7½)** at Tampa Bay: Both teams should be out of the playoffs. But only the loser is. ... **BUCS, 28-23**.

**Houston (plus 1)** at Chicago: The AFC factor again. ... **TEXANS, 18-15**.

**Tennessee (plus 2½)** at Oakland: Billy Volek isn't bad. ... **RAIDERS, 34-30**.

**Last week:** 5-11 (spread), 12-4 (straight up).

**Season:** 97-107-4 (spread), 137-71 (straight up).

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

**MIAMI** — The Miami Dolphins will put their coach Nick Saban on hold to comply with the NFL's hiring policy by interviewing a minority candidate, a team source told The Associated Press on Friday.

It could delay offering the job to Saban until next week, but he remains the front-runner to become the Dolphins' coach, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

There's a lot of mutual interest, the source said.

Louisiana State athletic director Skip Bertman said he believes the Dolphins are about to make an offer, and Saban is interested in the job.

"I think an offer is very imminent," Bertman said in a telephone interview from Baton Rouge. "It's important for you to understand, he's not trying to leverage LSU. This is a career decision."

Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga

and president Eddie Jones, an LSU graduate, flew to Baton Rouge on Tuesday to meet with Saban. He's expected to be offered a contract worth \$4 million to \$5 million a year with authority to shape football operations, which could lead to the departure of general manager Rick Spielman.

Jones has said the Dolphins will adhere to NFL hiring policy. Guidelines established in 2002 require teams to interview at least one minority candidate for coaching vacancies.

Assistant coaches on other teams are off limits for interviews until the regular season ends Jan. 2, leaving the Dolphins with few potential minority candidates if they want to move quickly. Because uncertainty over Saban's status is sure to hurt LSU's recruiting, he's probably eager for a resolution soon.

NFL Hall of Famer Harry Carson, representing a group that advocates more minority hirings in the league, said he complained Friday about the Dolphins'

search process in a meeting with Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney, chairman of the league's diversity committee. Carson said an interview with a minority candidate would now likely be viewed as a "courtesy interview" because the Dolphins have already made up their mind.

Carson said the team interviewed no minority candidates when Jimmy Johnson became coach in 1996 (and when Dave Wannstedt was hired in 2000).

Saban is the only coach the Dolphins have confirmed is a candidate. He has been considered the favorite for the job ever since Dave Wannstedt resigned last month when Miami was 1-8.

Bertman said Saban has not been interested in other NFL vacancies.

"This one he's interested in," Bertman said.

Bertman said he believes Saban is committed to coaching LSU in the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1 against Iowa.

AP Sports Writer Mary Foster in New Orleans contributed to this report.

## Rams QB Bulger will sit Sunday

The Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS** — St. Louis Rams quarterback Marc Bulger still has soreness in his sprained right shoulder, making it unlikely that he will play Sunday against Arizona.

### NFL briefs

Bulger threw three interceptions last week but didn't feel comfortable. The Rams (6-7) had more optimistic earlier in the week but Bulger is sore and has trouble following through on throws.

Backup Chris Chandler is expected to make his second straight start.

"I'm not where I need to be right now, I don't think," Bulger said. "It was important for Chris to get the reps since he hasn't had any all year. Getting reps, that's the main reason why you play well or you don't."

There's urgency for Bulger to play. The Rams are one game behind Seattle in the NFC West with three games to go.

"We're hanging by a thread and we know our team needs to you right now," Bulger said. "To not be able to help, especially on the road, is tough."

The 39-year-old Chandler threw a career-high six interceptions in last week's loss to Carolina.

"I don't dwell on that and we don't talk about it, really," coach Mike Martz said. "We're going to move on. We all go through that; whether it's a coach or a player, you experience that. He's a veteran. He knows how to respond, and he'll come back and play well."

Chandler will have a better supporting cast this week because Marshall Faulk and Steven Jackson have recovered from sprained knees that kept them out of the last game. Martz said Faulk will make his first start in three games.

### NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, following by team's prognosis.  
**Bills:** QB Trent Green (ankle), probable.  
**Colts:** DL Luther Ellie (herniated disc) out for season.  
**Vikings:** CB Antoine Winfield (ankle) will not play Sunday.

### Falcons, Colts to play in Tokyo on Aug. 6

**NEW YORK** — The Atlanta Falcons and Indianapolis Colts will begin the exhibition season Aug. 6 in the American Bowl in Tokyo, the 12th time an NFL game will be played in the city.

The last time the NFL went to Tokyo was 2003, when Tampa Bay beat the New York Jets 30-14. The NFL's American Bowl series of international games began in 1986. Since then, 39 games have been played in 12 cities outside the United States.

### Steelers WR Burress out; RB Staley doubtful

**PITTSBURGH** — Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress will sit out Saturday's game against the New York Giants, missing his fourth consecutive game because of a sore hamstring.

Burress, Pittsburgh's most reliable downfield receiver, ran punts in practice this week and was optimistic about playing. But he was downgraded from questionable to out Thursday after talking with trainer John Norwig.

"It's just a couple of things," Burress said. "When I'm running full speed and make a little move, I still feel a little sore, and I think to me it would probably be best for me to sit out the game."

Burress thinks missing one more game should allow him to play Dec. 26 against Baltimore.

The Steelers (12-1), trying for a club-record 12th consecutive victory, also might be without running

back Duce Staley (hamstring), who missed practice Wednesday and Thursday. He's listed as doubtful, meaning there is only a 25 percent chance he will play.

### McNair to miss rest of season

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair will miss the second three games of the season and undergo surgery to strengthen the bruised sternum that has plagued him most of the year.

Coach Jeff Fisher said the two reached the decision Friday.

Fisher said a chief consideration is that McNair, the NFL's co-MVP last season, will need the surgery even if he never plays football again to fix the damage caused by three injuries to his sternum.

McNair, who has missed five games this season for the struggling Titans (4-9), talked to reporters Friday for the first time since Dec. 12, when he refused to play football again to fix the damage caused by three injuries to his sternum.

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### Plummer fined \$5,000

**DENVER** — Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer was fined \$5,000 by the NFL on Friday for making an obscene gesture during last week's home game against Miami.

Plummer and coach Mike Shanahan refused to comment.

Plummer apologized after the game, then again during interviews Wednesday, admitted he wasn't perfect and promised he'd not make the mistake again.



# Temple coach Chaney has staying power

## Facing 1,000th game, he's still a fiery presence

BY DAN GELSTON  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney barely had time to savor one of his earliest games back in 1972 when an indignant fan abruptly remarked he wasn't too happy to have the rookie coach around.

"I told him, 'Well, I'm going to be here for a long time so you better get used to me,'" Chaney recalled with a laugh.

Sure enough, Chaney is still raising hell on the sidelines 32 years after his college coaching debut with Division II Cheyney State in suburban Philadelphia. Chaney eventually moved on to Temple, but not much else has changed for the Hall of Famer.

From threatening opposing coaches to giving a ref an earful in his loud, booming voice, to reaching out to another underprivileged kid, Chaney has remained steady as ever through 999 games.

Chaney still seems restless and cranky, and his nattily attired is usually in shambles after a game.



After 999 games, Temple coach John Chaney has lost none of his competitive fire. Above, he shares some with point guard Mardy Collins.

As Chaney approaches his 1,000th career game, he knows his time on Temple's sideline is nearing an end. But don't go planning that retirement party just yet.

"I would like to stay as long as I can, as long as my health is good and as long as the kids keep listening to me," said Chaney, who turns 73 in January.

When Chaney (711-288) coach-

es Temple against Princeton on Monday, he will become the 19th Division I coach to reach 1,000 games and the fifth active one, joining Lou Henson, Bob Knight, Eddie Sutton, Lute Olson and Mike Krzyzewski.

"I think it's a number that's really kind of inconceivable to me," said Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli, who is in his 10th season. "Like a lot of things about

John Chaney, it's hard to put your hands around."

Chaney, whose deep, dark eyes seem fitting for a school whose mascot is an owl, was amazed he's lasted so long.

"I've never given it any thought," Chaney said. "It surprised me when they told me I accomplished 700 wins."

Chaney said that, although the games tend to run together, it's the people, the experiences and the stories that stand out.

"I can't remember all of their names, but sooner or later it comes back to me," he said.

Soon, Chaney is off on another story, this one about cooking eggs for his players at Cheyney State because a flu epidemic had them quarantined. When Chaney tells how the eggs turned a Dr. Susskind green, he bursts into a fit of uncontrollable cackling.

Chaney dabbled as player-coach toward the end of his career in the Eastern Basketball League, then started full time at Philadelphia's Sayre Junior High (1963-66) and Simon Gratz High (1966-72).

When Cheyney State came calling in 1972, Chaney was torn.

Chaney, though, was convinced he could affect more lives on the college level. Chaney had more concerns when he considered the Temple vacancy in 1982.

"I was very apprehensive," he said. "I was happy with where I

was. I always believed that success comes when you're very happy with what you do."

Chaney had little to worry about after 10 seasons at Cheyney. He was 225-59 and won the NCAA Division II title in 1978 with the Owls.

Chaney has experienced so much success that he has quite a list of prolific games to choose from for his most memorable.

His first game was a 68-58 loss to East Stroudsburg. His first victory came in the next game, on Dec. 5, 1972, an 82-67 defeat of Monmouth.

Chaney's favorite was Cheyney's 47-40 victory over Wisconsin-Green Bay in the 1978 Division II title game.

"Without question the national championship game at Cheyney in '78 stands out the most," he said. "And my first time here getting into the NCAA's stands out. How exciting it was for all the students."

After a losing record his first season at Temple, Chaney took the Owls to the NCAA tournament 17 times in 18 years. Before his arrival, the Owls had never played in consecutive tournaments.

Chaney has led the Owls 21 straight postseason appearances, including five appearances in the NCAA tournament regional finals (1988, 1991, 1993, 1999 and 2001).

Still, a Final Four berth remains the one void in his career.

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# Beltre, Mariners reach 5-year, \$64M deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Prized free agent Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal Thursday, The Associated Press learned.

Beltre's contract is subject to him passing a physical, a person close to the third baseman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The deal could be announced as early as Friday, Seattle did not comment on the agreement.

**MLB briefs**  
A day earlier, the Mariners added another slugger by finalizing a \$50 million, four-year contract with free-agent first baseman Richie Sexson.

Seattle finished a distant last in the AL West, going 63-99 for their worst record since 1983. The Mariners were last in the league with only 136 homers and 698 runs.

Beltre, 26, led the majors with 48 home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He hit .334 with 121 RBIs, and finished second behind Barry Bonds in the NL MVP voting.

Beltre also improved on defense last season, committing only 10 errors.

The Dodgers wanted to keep Beltre and offered him salary arbitration. But Los Angeles recently gave itself some protection, signing free-agent Jeff Kent and saying that he could play third base, along with his usual spot at second.

"We're disappointed. It hurts," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said. "Obviously, we would have loved to have him back."

"I think all of us knew this certainly was a possibility. We feel like we stepped up and made a very competitive offer, actually tried to make it a compelling one by offering a six-year guaranteed year. Unfortunately for us, Adrian decided to go elsewhere."

Beltre made \$5 million last sea-



Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners reportedly agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal on Thursday. Beltre must pass a physical first.

son, and figured to cash in after a career year in which he led the Dodgers to the NL West division title and their first postseason spot since 1988.

DePodesta said the Dodgers' six-year offer to Beltre and agent Scott Boras included an option for a seventh season.

When asked if the Dodgers were given a final say in the matter, DePodesta said: "Not in so many words. They didn't come back and say if you can't do this, he's coming back."

"Scott did have a sense of urgency. We did try to step up to that. That really wasn't the forum. But then again, I'm not blaming Scott for that, either. Everything he did in this process was above board. There's no villain here," he said.

"At the end of the day, Seattle

stepped up and made a great offer. We had multiple meetings, face-to-face meetings."

Beltre became a free agent after the season, filing on the same day he had arthroscopic surgery to remove two large bone spurs from his left ankle.

Beltre made his major league debut in 1998 at 19. He had posted career highs of 23 home runs, 85 RBIs and a .290 batting average before breaking loose this season.

## Red Sox sign All-Star Renteria for four years

BOSTON — Edgar Renteria passed a physical and signed a four-year contract with the Boston Red Sox on Friday, bringing the All-Star shortstop to the World Series champions one day

after they officially lost ace pitcher Pedro Martinez.

The Red Sox announced Renteria's reported \$40 million deal during a news conference at Fenway Park barely 24 hours after their former ace right-hander was introduced by the New York Mets, who signed Martinez to a four-year, \$53 million contract.

Renteria looms as the long-term replacement for Nomar Garciaparra, another Red Sox star who was traded July 31 to the Chicago Cubs. Boston received shortstop Orlando Cabrera in that deal and he helped the team win the World Series. But even he said Renteria, a fellow Colombian, is a better player.

Renteria's agreement includes a team option for 2009, when he will be 34.

"Edgar Renteria has proven himself to be not only one of the best shortstops in baseball, but one of the most complete all-around players in the game," Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein said. "His blend of speed, power, defense, durability and leadership makes him a terrific addition to the clubhouse."

In nine seasons — three with Florida and six with St. Louis — Renteria has won two All-Star Games and been on four All-Star teams.

His career batting average is .289 and he's stolen 237 bases. Last season he hit .287 with 10 homers and 72 RBIs. His best season was 2003 when he hit .330 with 13 homers and 100 RBIs with 34 stolen bases.

The Red Sox still were trying to improve their pitching rotation after losing Martinez and showing little interest in retaining free agent Derek Lowe. On Wednesday, they signed left-hander David Wells to a two-year, \$8 million contract that would be worth \$18 million if he reaches all his incentives.

Epstein said during the winter meetings in Anaheim this month that Martinez would not necessarily be replaced by a pitcher who would cost as much as he would.

Boston offered Martinez a three-year, \$40.5 million deal.

"We will redeploy the money that would've been spent," Red Sox President Larry Lucchino said Tuesday after Martinez chose the Mets. "That's a considerable amount of resources to redeploy."

In Game 4 of the World Series, Renteria made the last out of Boston's sweep on a grounder to pitcher Keith Foulke that gave the Red Sox their first title since 1918. But in 1997, Renteria got the game-winning single in the 11th inning of Game 7 against Cleveland that gave Florida its first World Series title.

## Morales officially an Angel

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Highly touted Cuban prospect Kendry Morales is officially a member of the Anaheim Angels.

The Angels announced two weeks ago they had agreed to terms of a six-year contract with Morales, conditional upon the 21-year-old switch hitter receiving clearance from the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

That came Thursday, when Morales received a license from the OFAC, clearing him to work in the United States. He defected from Cuba in June, and now lives in the Dominican Republic.

The Angels added Morales to their 40-man roster and designated right-hander Bobby Jenks for assignment. Jenks, the Angels' fifth-round pick in 2000, only made three appearances for Triple-A Salt Lake last year before being shut down in June with elbow problems.

Morales plays first base, third base and the outfield. He was the first baseman and cleanup hitter for Cuba at the 2003 World Cup in Havana, and his grand slam helped the Cubans beat Taiwan 6-3 in the finals.

The Angels were able to sign Morales because a Cuban player who acquires residency in a third country is eligible for free agent status.

# Martinez: 'I'm way over Schilling as a pitcher'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pedro Martinez says he told Red Sox manager Alex Rodriguez he didn't want to be in the shadow of fellow ace Curt Schilling. He also hopes his new team, the New York Mets, will sign his former Boston battery-mate, Jason Varitek.

In an interview with the Boston Herald, Martinez criticized the negotiating tactics of Red Sox officials, saying he repeatedly got mixed signals from team president Larry Lucchino, owner John Henry and General Manager Theo Epstein, whom he called "arrogant."

Martinez signed a four-year, \$53 million contract with the Mets this week. He said he left the Red Sox after seven years partly because he didn't want to be second in the starting rotation behind Schilling, who was acquired last offseason and helped lead the team to its first World Series champion-



Martinez

ship in 86 years. "I told [Henry], 'You want to sign me, get it done. Please force them to get it done. I'm willing to stay here. Negotiate with them. I just don't want to be under Schilling,'" Martinez said.

He also said he deserved a better deal than Schilling.

"Schilling is 38, I'm only 33," he said. "The fact that I had an off-year doesn't mean that I can be below Schilling. Still, with an off-year, I'm way over Schilling as a pitcher and I've pitched pretty much like Schilling the last few years, if you're going to talk about durability."

Red Sox officials did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Asked what other free agents he thought Boston would sign, Martinez said "they'll be stupid not to go Varitek. Varitek is the next one gone. They're going to have the biggest problem with him."

Epstein has said signing Varitek is one of his offseason priorities. The catcher is reportedly seeking a five-year contract worth more than \$50 million, with a no-trade clause.

"I hope he is gone," Martinez said of Varitek. "I hope Tek is on my team."

Asked whether that meant he wanted to get rid of current Mets catcher Mike Piazza, Martinez said, "I do want Piazza, to be honest. Piazza is a good hitter. We can move him to first or somewhere... I want Tek. Tek is a good player, a good catcher."

He also said Epstein and Lucchino "weren't getting along in negotiations. Lucchino would say one thing and Theo

would show up with another."

He said Epstein treated his agent, Fernando Cuza, poorly during negotiations.

"Theo got really arrogant on Fernando and I didn't appreciate it," Martinez said. "The belief that he had me and wasn't the nicest man communicating with Fernando."

He said Red Sox manager Terry Francona played little role in managing the team, taking his cues from the team's front office.

"Francona is subject to what they decide," Martinez said. "Francona has no say, like he didn't have any say in managing the team. He was manipulated from upstairs."

Asked for evidence to back that assertion, he said, "I was in the clubhouse, that's how I know."

## SPORTS

LSU's Saban is reportedly  
the top candidate for Miami's  
head coaching job, Page 44



# Big pitch for Big Unit

## Yankees' deal would also involve Vazquez, Dodgers' Green

BY BEN WALKER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After so many missed tries, the New York Yankees might really have a trade for Randy Johnson.

The Arizona ace was on the verge of joining the Yankees in a three-team megadeal that also includes Shawn Green and Javier Vazquez, sources told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

Green would go from Los Angeles to Arizona, and Vazquez would move from the Yankees to the Dodgers in the trade that would put Johnson in Yankee pinstripes.

"It is going to happen," a source familiar with the negotiations said on the condition of anonymity. Another team source said the principals were in place for the trade to be completed.

There was no confirmation from any of the teams that a deal was finalized. And one source said it still could fall apart because so many players and clubs were involved.

Another element that could get in the way: With the Dodgers losing free agent Adrian Beltre to Seattle, they may not be so eager to trade away a power hitter.

Newsday and Fox Sports, which first reported the deal on their Web sites, said the other players were Dodgers pitchers Brad Penny and Yhency Brazoban, and Yankees top prospects Eric Duncan and Dioner Navarro.

"We're still in conversations with a lot of different clubs about a lot of different possibilities," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said earlier in the day. "We have talked about some three-way deals and some four-way deals. I don't know if it's going to happen or not."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner has long coveted Johnson, still one of baseball's most dominating pitchers at 41. New York was not able to pry the Big Unit from the Diamondbacks last summer and called off trade talks with them two weeks ago, saying the price was too high.

But the Yankees and Arizona reopened discussions this week for the five-time Cy Young winner. Johnson has a no-trade clause, but had said he would accept a deal to the Yankees.

New York already has added free agent Carl Pavano to its rotation this offseason, aiming to improve a team that blew a 3-0 lead against Boston in the AL championship series. The Yankees also have reached a deal with Jaret Wright, while the Red Sox have signed David Wells but lost

free agent Pedro Martinez.

Green also has a no-trade clause. The outfielder would go with Penny and Brazoban to Arizona while Navarro, a catcher, and Duncan, a third baseman, would go to the Dodgers.

Johnson had his best years with the Diamondbacks, winning the NL Cy Young Award his first four seasons with them. When Curt Schilling was traded to Arizona from Philadelphia, he and Johnson formed perhaps the most imposing righty-lefty combination the game has known.

Schilling and Johnson were co-MVPs of the 2001 World Series, when Arizona beat the Yankees in seven thrilling games.

Johnson underwent knee surgery during the 2003 season, but came back for what might have been his best year with the Diamondbacks in 2004.

amondbacks in 2004.

On a team that lost 111 games, Johnson was second in the majors with a 2.60 ERA. He led the majors in strikeouts (290) for the ninth time and sixth time in the last seven years.

Johnson was 16-14, but 13-2 when the Anaheim Angels offense scored more than two runs for him. Along the way, he pitched a perfect game against Atlanta.

Vazquez, 28, was 14-10 with a 4.91 ERA in his first season with the Yankees, and was picked for the American League All-Star team. He was 1-0 with a 9.53 ERA in three games in the postseason, and the Yankees always put a premium on October performances.

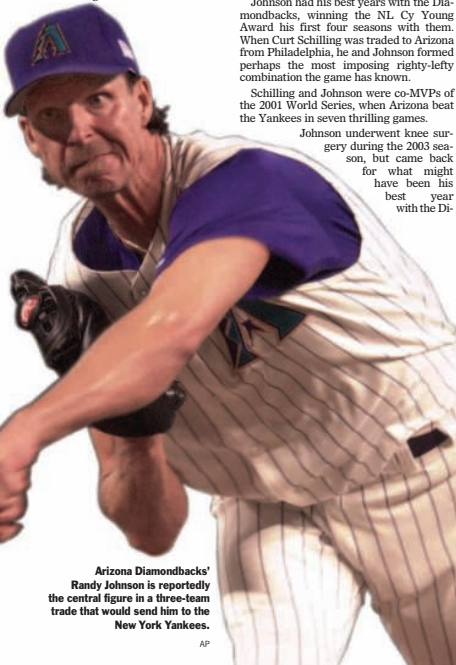
Green, 31, has a .282 career average, but dipped to .266 last season with 28 home and 86 RBIs.

Penny, 26, was traded from Florida to the Dodgers last July 30, but saw limited action for Los Angeles because of a problem in his right arm. He was 9-10 with a 3.15 ERA for both clubs.

Brazoban, 24, made his major league debut this season with the Dodgers, going 6-2 with a 2.48 ERA.

Navarro also made his big league debut this year. He was considered, along with Duncan, among the top prospects in the Yankees' system.

Associated Press sports writers Bob Baum in Phoenix, Josh Dubow in San Francisco and John Nadel in Los Angeles contributed to this report.



Arizona Diamondbacks' Randy Johnson is reportedly the central figure in a three-team trade that would send him to the New York Yankees.

AP

**Bryant, Lakers  
hand Kings  
worst head loss  
in nearly  
seven years**

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**Temple's  
Chaney not  
slowing down  
as he nears  
1,000th  
Division I game**

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**NHL players'  
association calls  
owners' financial  
claims 'ridiculous'**

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